

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER



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Hopkins acquires Charles & Blackstone apts.

By **BRENDAN SCHREIBER**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Homewood Campus continued its eastward expansion Friday as the University completed negotiations surrounding the purchase of the Charles and Blackstone apartment buildings.

The acquisition completes a contiguous block of real estate owned by the University along Charles Street between 33rd and 34th Streets.

In the short term there are no plans to renovate the buildings or make any other significant changes to their structure or operations, but administrators left such options open for long-term planning.

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration James McGill notified the student body of the purchase via e-mail on Wednesday. "In the immediate future, the buildings will continue to be managed as market rental units, outside

the student housing system," he noted. "Current leases for all tenants — both students and others — remain valid."

He added that there has thus far been no discussion regarding the removal of PJ's Pub from the basement of the Charles, as the establishment currently has a lease agreement with the owners.

"One need only look at the map of Hopkins to see how much it makes sense for us to try to acquire the buildings," Dean of Undergraduate Education and

Vice Provost Paula Burger said.

She noted the University's desire to provide four-year housing for all students who want it, as stated in the report of the Commission on Undergraduate Education. The Charles and Blackstone buildings will supplement the new housing space offered by Charles Commons after its construction is completed in August.

"There aren't many vacant lots
CONTINUED ON PAGE A2

Brand New to headline Spring Fair

Staff raises more money than
any previous organizers to date

By **KATHERINE BREWER**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Brand New will be the headlining band for Spring Fair 2006, scheduled to begin April 21.

The Long Island-based punk-pop band will play at the Recreation Center on Saturday, April 22 at 8 p.m.

"We are very pleased with our choice of Brand New and we are sure that they will be successful," said senior Ondrej Juhasz, the night-time concert committee co-chair.

The band, which plans to release an album shortly before it plays at Hopkins, has toured with Dashboard Confessional and Taking Back Sunday.

Brand New was one of four acts — along with Saves the Day, Gavin Degraw and Our Lady Peace — on the Spring Fair staff's short list of possible bands.

"We wanted to keep with the pattern of alternating between rock and hip-hop," senior Jeff Russell, Spring Fair executive co-chair, said.

"Last year we had Talib Kweli, the year before that Guster and the year before that Blackalicious. Brand New is a great continuation of this trend."

Juhasz added, "They were the best combination: a relatively big
CONTINUED ON PAGE A2



COURTESY HTTP://WWW.NYCGOV
The Associated Press named alumnus Michael Bloomberg as Hopkins' \$100 million donor.

Bloomberg revealed as anonymous donor

By **CHRISTINE HIGGINS**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Within hours of University officials' announcement of an anonymous \$100 million donation, it was revealed that billionaire Hopkins alumnus and New York mayor Michael Bloomberg was the unidentified benefactor.

"A person familiar with Bloomberg's philanthropy confirmed Thursday's gift on condition of anonymity, citing the Republican mayor's desire for privacy," the Associated Press reported Feb. 3.

Despite this information, the University maintained the donor's anonymity.

"The fact of what has been reported in the news media notwithstanding, as far as the University is concerned, this remains an anonymous gift," Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs Dennis O'Shea said.

"We received the gift with that understanding, and that remains our understanding with the donor."

Provost Steven Knapp said, "I am not at liberty to comment in any way on the identity of the anonymous donor, or on the amount of the gift that is being
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Former NAACP President kicks off Black History Month



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Kweisi Mfume, candidate for United States Senate and former Maryland congressman, delivered the keynote address at the second Black History Month event on Thurs., Feb. 2, Page A2.

University to revamp campus dining facilities

By **CHRIS SERENI**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

In March Hopkins students will begin to see campus-wide changes in dining take effect as part of the University's "Dining Vision" program.

The program, initiated in Fall 2004 to improve students' dining experiences, came in response to the Commission on Undergraduate Education (CUE) reports, which cited poor student response to on-campus food, and the need for a sense of community as reasons to improve food quality and service.

For years, Hopkins has earned a place on The Princeton Review's "Is This Food?" list. The list, compiled annually, is based on students' ratings of campus food. The University, currently ranked 11th worst, aims to make great changes with hopes of a "Best Campus Food" ranking in the top ten by 2008 and top five by 2010.

"We are all in agreement that dining on this campus is not where we want it to be. ... We are absolutely determined to exponentially improve dining services," said David Furhman, director of dining programs. The Housing and Dining

Service's "Dining Vision" is a "roadmap of where we want to take dining," he said.

To identify areas for improvement, University officials visited 12 institutions deemed to be among the best in dining. Although all 12 programs were very different in terms of size, location and student life, seven key similarities were found that were instrumental in the formation of the current action plan. These include strong support from administrators, a direct correlation between investment level and quality, culinary expertise, outstanding customer service, focused

and streamlined programs, updated and contemporary facilities and viewing dining as an opportunity to weave social and academic life.

With these goals in mind, the "Dining Vision" intends to make dining a top priority for the University by implementing many dramatic changes to the existing programs available to students.

The changes include a renovated Terrace Court Cafe and the closing of Wolman Station. The updates at Terrace will transform it into a more contemporary dining facility, pro-
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Baltimore man arrested for series of armed robberies

By **PATRICE HUTTON**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Christopher Watts, a 16-year-old Baltimore resident, was arrested Saturday as a suspect in a series of armed robberies, including that of a group of three Hopkins students in the Charles Village area.

Watts, who is being charged with first degree robbery and handgun possession, also robbed a non-Hopkins student and attempted to rob another Hopkins student with the aid of an accomplice.

"There was a short foot pursuit with some district officers, and then they finally arrested the individual at 39th and University," Hopkins Lt. of Investigations Steve Ossmus said.

"In the course of confronting him they observed him throw a gun to the ground, which was later determined to be an air pistol," he added.

Watts is a juvenile but will be charged as an adult because of the gun possession charge, said Baltimore Police Department Detective Donny Moses.

On Jan. 30 at 11:51 p.m., three Hopkins students were robbed on the 3100 block of North Calvert Street. The suspect was described as wearing a bandana and carrying a dark handgun.

Shortly after, the pair of suspects attempted to rob Hopkins junior Steve Iwanyk.

"After those two black guys robbed them, they fell back into the alleyway. The two
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• The men's wrestling team powers to a comeback finish, **A12**.



PHOTO ESSAY

• Discover the rich and varied culture and architecture of Morocco, **B12**.

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Early admit rate drops to new low

By **RAVI GUPTA**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

While many of Hopkins' peer institutions saw a modest rise in applications this year, the University's undergraduate admissions became significantly more competitive when it received a record 39 percent more early applications.

The rise in applications drove down the Early Decision acceptance rate to 48 percent from last year's 52 percent.

Duke, Stanford, Princeton and Brown Universities and the University of Pennsylvania saw increases of 1 percent, 4 percent, 10 percent, 16 percent and 21 percent respectively in the number of early applicants.

At Hopkins, the number of applicants rose considerably overall with more than 13,000 students applying this year — an increase of about 20 percent from last year's applicant pool.

"Our peer institutions are also seeing similar increases in the number of applicants. However, our increase is the largest I have seen anywhere else. So I think there's definitely something about what's going on here at Hopkins that's attracting more than our usual share of applicants to selective institutions," Latting continued.

Of the 1,004 early applications received this November, 482 students were accepted to the Schools of Arts and Sciences and Engineering. When students apply for early decision, they agree to a binding contract that requires them to enroll at the University if admitted and withdraw regular admission applications to other schools.

"We are very excited about this year's increase in applicants.
CONTINUED ON PAGE A2

Black History Month underway

By SAL GENTILE
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Inaugurating a series of events commemorating Black History Month, United States Senatorial candidate Kweisi Mfume delivered the Black Student Union's (BSU) keynote address last Thursday, discussing an array of socioeconomic issues concerning racial politics in America.

The speech was the first in a series of events sponsored by BSU that will last until the end of February entitled "Roots: Discovering our Universal Heritage."

"All these events are very diverse," explained BSU President Iyamide House. "They encompass a lot."

"Our theme is 'Roots: Discovering our Universal Heritage,'" she said, "because black history is not just for black people, it's for everyone."

When asked how many people she thought attended the Mfume speech, BSU Vice-President Christina Chapman admitted that the auditorium in Hodson Hall, "definitely wasn't full," but saw an audience of "maybe 100 to 150 people."

She went on to explain that the Black Student Union often hosts events with "smaller groups of dedicated students," such as the book discussion with African-American author Bebe Moore Campbell that took place Tuesday, because "those are the people who want to make change."

For that event, House explained, there was a "smaller turnout, for those who have read her books." Chapman estimated the attendance at about 60 people.

Mpepera Simango, Co-Chair of BSU's committee on Black History Month, said that some of the organization's upcoming events include a Poetry Slam on Friday and a fashion show, both of which will feature participants from the Black Student Unions of nearby schools.

Of the former, she said "that should be well attended, students from Hopkins and other schools will be performing and competing."

When asked why she thought it was important that students have the opportunity to attend these events, House commented, "It's not good enough for people to say, 'It's not my problem, it doesn't concern me.'"

"Black History Month is important because we need to remember and educate people about the past," agreed Chapman. "On this campus, there are a lot of changes that are important to black students and faculty."

Among the problems Chapman cited was the low number of minority faculty members, as well as the concern that the University continues to place an emphasis on increased diversity as it enrolls larger classes.

"We don't have a lot of black faculty on this campus," she cautioned, adding further that the University "needs more black students."

"This is Baltimore, which has a large African-American population ... and the campus is very isolated," she added.

When asked what he thought of the event series thus far, sophomore Joseph Redd, who attended the Mfume address, said it was "very moving."

"He said a lot of things that needed to be said," he explained, adding that it made him "want to take initiative and be active with politics."

Sophomore Adar Eisenbruch agreed, "It's important to anyone who considers themselves political or historically aware in America."

Of Mfume, Eisenbruch said, "I thought he had an interesting and unique perspective on current race relations in the country, and current politics both national and local."

"Rarely do we get the chance to come together and support each other," she added. "We're trying to learn from each other."

Spring Fair 2006 signs Brand New

CONTINUED FROM
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name with new music coming out that are high energy, which people can get excited about."

"People may not know that much about them," said Rachele Cruz, night-time concert committee co-chair, "But they have a large and dedicated fan base and we're confident that once people give them a try, they'll be as excited as we are."

Russell added, "They are a popular band on the rise that was recommended by our industry liaison. They are also known for great live shows, and background research shows they are popular on the Hopkins campus."

Initial student reaction to the choice of Brand New as the headlining Spring Fair act varied.

"I think I would go see Brand New," said sophomore Jasmine Serlemitsos.

"I like their music and it is definitely a completely different vibe than Talib Kweli. It's good to mix it up, that way people who like all different kinds of music have a chance to see what they want."

Other students weren't so enthusiastic about the choice of artist. "I don't know who they are," said sophomore Ben Wil-



COURTESY HTTP://WWW.RAZORANDTIEMEDIA.COM

One reason the Spring Fair staff chose Brand New was to diversify the musical genres of performers between years.

son, "and thus would not be as likely to attend a concert of theirs versus someone like Talib Kweli who is more famous. That is not to say that I won't go, but it is to say that I won't make as much of an effort to ensure that I will get a ticket to go."

Junior Chunwoo Kae said, "It makes me sad that we still have mediocre bands come to Hopkins," but blamed it on Spring Fair not having "enough money" to attract the biggest names.

To raise money, Spring Fair fund raises with primarily the HOP and SAC, but also receives financial support from GRO, IFC and the Panhellenic council, among others. They are not given a budget from Hopkins, so they must raise all the money they

need to spend.

"We raised more money this year than any other Spring Fair to date," said Juhasz. "We put in a bid for Brand New two weeks ago and hear on February 1."

Brand New will announce at a later date who their opening act will be, and Spring Fair is currently working with HOP to book sound equipment, a stage, a ticketing agent and lights. Ticket prices and information will be announced soon, with first priority going to Hopkins students at a cheaper price.

Brand New will be the most high profile performance during the three day fair, which also includes stages for local performers, craft vendors and the ever-popular Beer Garden.

Three stages will be set up throughout the weekend on the Gilman steps, in the Beer Garden and on the beach.

"Spring Fair offers this headline act, as well as daytime stages with lots of high quality local bands that really highlight the energy we want," said Russell of the general provided entertainment.

Spring Fair has changed this year because of the construction next to Garland. Most activities will take place on the Upper Quad, the Beach and the Freshman quad as opposed to previous years, where events were in the Lower Quad and the Garland parking lot.

University to become more selective for class of 2010

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We measure quality very broadly beyond just test scores. It's an opportunity to continue to reach talented students who can bring something unique to the Johns Hopkins community," said John Latting, director of undergraduate admissions.

Latting highlighted the major facelift that the Homewood campus has undergone over the past few years and also "[the] streamlining of the academic and social experience" as among the reasons for prospective students' increased interest in Hopkins.

William Conley, dean of enrollment and academic services, noted on the competitiveness of this year's early applicants, "Though impossible to make SAT comparisons with this year's new three-part format, I would say quality is slightly higher as measured by GPA."

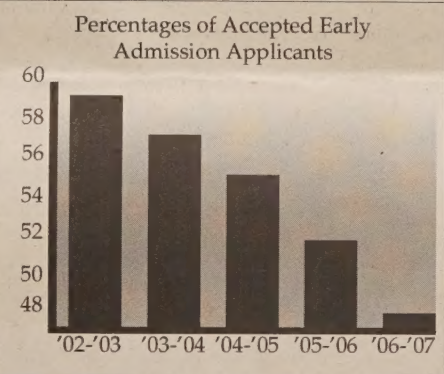
Latting commented on Hopkins' overall selectivity this year saying, "With the rise in the number of applicants, it's clear that the overall percentage of students accepted will fall considerably from last year's admit rate of 35 percent. I wouldn't be surprised to see it drop to the mid-twenties or even lower."

The students accepted early this year showed significant diversity with students from 34 states and 11 foreign countries. 10 percent of the admitted students are of underrepresented minority groups.

The split between women and men accepted was 44 percent and 56 percent, respectively. The most highly represented states were New Jersey, Maryland, New York and California.

Keeping in trend, many applicants indicated interest in financial aid from the university. For the 2005-2006 year, 60 percent of Hopkins undergraduates received financial aid. For the entering class of 2009, the average grant was \$23,713 and average aid (including loans and job) was \$29,472.

Ellen Frishberg, director of student financial services said, "The grants for the entering 2006-2007 early-decision class look to be comparable with the class that just entered."



WILLIAM PARSCHALK/NEWS-LETTER

Since 2002 early admission has become a more popular option.

"Average grants and average aid packages have been going up with the cost of education. The deans have increased the commitment to need based aid and fund raising has been successful in getting more endowment dollars for student aid," Frishberg added.

Hopkins hopes to enroll about 1,160 students in the fall, close to the size of the Class of 2009.

Latting refuted rumors of plans to increase class size significantly saying, "There's talk of a 4,400 student body for Homewood but not any dramatic growth beyond that."

He noted that the University wants to maintain its reputation of a major research institution with a small student body and a low student/faculty ratio.

Hopkins was recently ranked 13th in a tie with Cornell University by the U.S. News & World Report's 2006 National Universities ranking.

Current students expressed excitement over the increase in selectivity at Hopkins. "Growing up in Baltimore, I've always thought of Hopkins as a selective school. The lacrosse championship has definitely added to the appeal," freshman Laura Gordon said.

"Because Hopkins isn't an Ivy League school, sometimes we forget how selective and revered the school is, so hopefully a change in ranking will increase school spirit even more," she added.

"Hopkins is already known for having an exemplary medical school and strong undergraduate science programs, but the changes being made to increase its well-roundedness across other disciplines make me incredibly excited to see where the school will go, ratings-wise as well as student-wise," freshman Sonia Sarkar said.

No long-term plans for Charles, Blackstone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

around here," she said. "Given the location, the interest is clearly that these facilities would be nice to own because they are already contiguous to JHU property."

"It's the intent of the trustees to try to find and control more space for students. We're anxious to have more students in housing, which they need. That's been the goal of the Board of Trustees, and we've been working on it for a while," Mark Rubenstein said. Rubenstein is a member of the Board of Trustees and chairman of The Rubenstein Company.

A letter on Friday notified current residents of the buildings that the Charles and Blackstone were under new management.

Some employees of the buildings received the news with fear that they would be fired following the change in management, but McGill commented that he was aware of no plans at present to switch to a new staff.

"The people who work in the Blackstone and Charles now will continue to do so for the time being."

Though security has become one of the primary concerns of the administration since the murder of senior Linda Trinh in the Charles last year, it was not the primary motivation of the University's pursuit of the two buildings. The negotiations have been in the works for several years.

Due to Trinh's death, however, security will be one of the first issues addressed. "Of all the things one could imagine to be done, security will probably be chief among them," Burger said.

She added that this by no means suggests that security facilities in the buildings are not currently adequate. The management of the buildings carried out a thorough security inventory of each one following Trinh's death. The University neared the completion of the purchase in November, but due to a confidentiality agreement between both parties, discussion about the deal was prohibited. By the middle of that month a letter of intent had been signed by the University, but the final contract had yet to be ironed out.

Upon completion of the arrangement, administrators expressed great delight with the University's progress. McGill said, "Johns Hopkins has been and remains interested in ensuring the continued stability of our immediate neighborhood and in preserving our options for future campus development."

He added, "Over the long term ... these buildings could provide interesting options as we continue toward a comprehensive residential program that accommodates a variety of student needs."

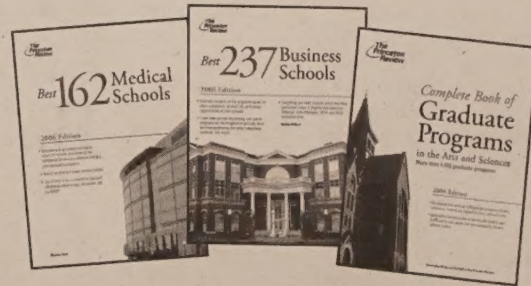
ERRATA

In the picture accompanying the Feb. 2 article "Selection of MSE chairs causes controversy," StuCo Executive President Atin Agarwal's name was spelled incorrectly.

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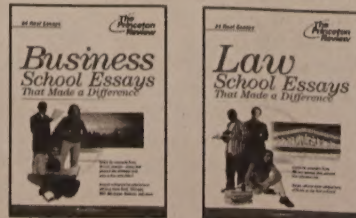
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NEWS

Terrace to close in March for revonation

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viding a nicer dining setting for students. Wolman Station will be transformed into an expanded and innovative grocery store named the "C-Store" at which students will be able to shop for groceries, meals and other items.

Charles Commons will serve as another main dining facility on campus which will feature contemporary, innovative menus.

A private dining area, fireplaces and couches are among some of the features administrators hope will hopefully spark socializing and further integrate student dining with student activities.

Terrace and Charles Commons are expected to open in Fall 2006, while the C-Store will debut in November or December 2006.

Levering and MegaBYTES will also be renovated slightly.

Sodexo's five-year contract will terminate at the end of this academic year. This fall, Housing and Dining Services sent a qualitatively focused request for proposals to food service providers.

From specific brand name foods to certified bakers, interested companies that respond to the request have to meet more stringent demands than in the past.

Furhman says the Housing and Dining Services Office has "received many exciting proposals," and remarks that this change from previous dining policies "represents the renaissance that will be dining on this



TIM FERMIN/NEWS-LETTER
Students dine in Wolman Hall, which will be expanded into a grocery store early next year.

campus in the future."

In early April an independent selection committee comprised of students and staff members will choose from among the five proposals selected. One of the proposals comes from Sodexo.

Students will also have new meal plans to choose from for the next school year. Freshmen will be able to choose from plans providing 14 or 19 meals per week, but sophomores living in residence halls will have many more choices, including plans that are entirely composed of "dining dollars," which will take the place of the "points" system currently in place.

Sophomore Amanda Klein thought the new "Dining Vision" will bring welcome changes.

"I am definitely looking forward to the possibility of a new food provider; I think that'll be a nice change for everyone. I think that the points meal plan is a good idea too because I hate having so many wasted blocks at the end of the semesters," she said.

Junior Christina Shum said she was excited about the new dining proposal. "It seems that the University is really serious about making big changes on

campus, and I can't wait to see what they are going to turn out like," she said.

"I am also excited to see how much the food improves."

Other students, such as senior Christopher Kovalchick, feel the new dining proposal is too little, too late.

"It's nice to see they are finally improving dining on campus, but it doesn't really affect me since I will be leaving. When I was a freshman, the dining plans were awful; sometimes I only went once a week. I just wish that our complaints were acted upon sooner," he said.

Beginning Mar. 17, Terrace will be closed for extensive renovation and remodeling into a more contemporary facility.

"You won't even recognize it," remarked Furhman.

In the meantime, seating will be expanded in Wolman Station to make room for students who would have otherwise dined at Terrace. A heated tent with walls will be constructed over the patio to allow dining during inclement weather, and food will be served continuously from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. to allow for the greater number of dining students.

NYC mayor named as \$100 mil. man

University officials continue to protect anonymity of donor after source identifies Bloomberg

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
distributed to each of the four areas."

"The resources are going to be divided in four ways," Senior Associate Vice President from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations Charles D. Phlegar said.

"The Gilman restoration project that is already in motion; Children's Tower at Hopkins Hospital that is also under construction as of last June; to various programs in the Bloomberg School of Public Health; and finally, but not lastly, to the Institute for Cell Engineering that is involved with stem cell research."

University officials have also refused to comment on the distribution of funding.

"The donor also has asked that we not state publicly how much of the \$100 million is going to each of the four uses," O'Shea said.

"It is fair to say," O'Shea added, "that neither the Gilman renovation nor the Children's Tower project is as of yet fully funded. This gift represents a marvelous step toward full funding, but we're not there yet and we have a lot of work left to do in both cases."

The Children's Tower is a \$275 million project, in addition to the estimated \$35 million necessary to complete the Gilman restorations.

According to Phlegar, "Mayor Bloomberg has contributed about \$108 million to Johns Hopkins University. This is the fourth gift to Hopkins of \$100 million or more and the third one from an anonymous donor."

The other is a \$150 million gift from Sidney Kimmel to name the Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. Four of the top ten gifts to Johns Hopkins ever, including last week's, are anonymous."

Outside of the University's

limited ability to comment on the contribution, the AP has reported and stipulated about the motivation behind and distribution of the anonymous donation.

According to the AP, "Total anonymity is not in the mayor's best interest, and so you have this game of the known anonymous giver," said Douglas Muzzio, professor of public affairs at Baruch College. "But who can blame

him: He's giving \$100 million, so he wants a little credit, but he doesn't want to be seen as trumpeting his giving."

Bloomberg's press office and spokespersons declined to comment regarding objectives for the donation and the mayor's preference to remain anonymous.

Bloomberg intends to leave full-time politics when his term ends in 2009.

Baltimore police apprehend suspect in student muggings

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guys walked up towards me and said 'Yo' and I said 'Yo,' and then one turned around, and I noticed that his buddy had a gun," Iwanys said.

"They asked for my wallet and then the guy pulled out the gun and pointed it in my face. I didn't want to get robbed, so I smacked the gun out of the guy's hand and turned and ran," he added.

Iwanys said that he realized the next day that others had been robbed prior to his encounter with the men when he found credit cards and J-cards in the alleyway where the incident occurred.

Ossmus said that collaboration between Hopkins and the police forces in the Northern District allowed for a rapid response time.

"Once we conferred with the city, we began putting together different strategies," Ossmus added.

"Major Steven Lukasik deployed six additional cars in the area at our request because of the incident, between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m."

Two days later on Feb. 1, a non-Hopkins affiliate was robbed at 10:29 a.m. on the 2800 block of

Hargrove Street.

Two black males approached a man loading the back of a vehicle with computer equipment and forced him into the back seat and drove him around for a while before putting him in the trunk. The victim escaped and the car was later recovered, reported Moses.

Another armed robbery occurred on Feb. 2, two hours before the individual was arrested. However, this incident wasn't reported until after the arrest and has not yet been confirmed as related.

Ossmus said that victims were showed a photo array featuring a picture of Watts and five other fill-in photographs.

"The victims positively identified him as being suspect," Ossmus said. He reported that the ease with which Hopkins worked with the Northern District was what lead to the speedy arrest.

"I believe that the reason that these individuals were caught so quickly was because they put a lot of forces out there that were able to cast a net down in the area to capture the individuals," Ossmus said.

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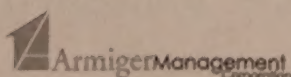
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Sharing Common Ground

UPPER-CLASS ROOM SELECTION 2006

Have you heard the news?

For the first time in five years the Housing & Dining department is offering university housing to upperclassmen with spaces to choose from in Charles Commons, McCoy, Homewood and Bradford.



DEPARTMENT OF
**HOUSING
& DINING**
SERVICES

Johns Hopkins University

We look forward to seeing rising juniors and seniors at the upcoming Upper-class Room Selection Process events:

Tuesday, Jan. 31st & Friday, Feb. 3rd

Housing and Dining Information Booth
12:00noon – 2:00pm, Wolman Hall Lobby

Wednesday, Feb. 1st & Wednesday, Feb. 8th

Housing and Dining Information Booth
12:00noon – 2:00pm, Gilman Breezeway

Wednesday, Feb. 8th

Group of 8 Information Session
4:00pm, AMR I Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, Feb. 8th – Tuesday, Feb. 14th

Group of 8 Registration to be completed and submitted on-line
Visit www.jhu.edu/hds

► **Deadline: Feb. 14th at 11:59pm** ◀

Wednesday, Feb. 15th

Upper-class Room Selection and Off-Campus Housing Information Session
5:00pm, Arellano Theater, Levering Hall

Friday, Feb. 17th

Group of 8 Assignment Notification Letters sent out by 5:00pm

Friday, Feb. 17th – Sunday, Feb. 26th

Upper-class Room Selection Registration to be completed and submitted on-line
Visit www.jhu.edu/hds

► **Deadline: Feb. 26th at 11:59pm** ◀

Wednesday, Feb. 22nd

Charles Commons Hard Hat Tours
3:00pm-5:00pm, Meet in the Lobby of Wolman

Friday, Feb. 24th

Residence Halls and Apartment Tours: McCoy/Bradford/Homewood
3:00pm – 5:00pm, Meet in the Lobby of Wolman

Wednesday, Mar. 1st

Off-Campus Housing Information Booth
12:00noon – 2:00pm, Wolman Hall Lobby

Thursday, Mar. 2nd

Upper-class Group # Notification in student mailboxes at 3pm

Thursday, Mar. 2nd

Residence Halls and Apartment Tours: McCoy/Charles Commons/Bradford/Homewood
5:00pm-7:00pm, Meet in the Lobby of Wolman

Tuesday, Mar. 7th

Upper-class Contract Signing Session
5:00pm, AMR I Multipurpose Room
Each group will be assigned a specific time to attend

Friday, Mar. 10th

Off-Campus Housing Fair
11:30am-2:00pm, Glass Pavilion

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ATTENTION STUDENT LEADERS

The Department of Student Development and Programming proudly announces the availability of the following 2006 award applications.

Homewood Arts Programs

Homewood Arts Certificate
Eugene Leake Award

Multicultural Student Affairs

Outstanding Service Award
Exemplary Leadership Award
Martin Luther King Jr. Courage and Service Award
Harvey Milk Service Award
Robert Strider Courage Award
Joe Carlton Scholar-Athlete Award
Owens-Hall-Bilgrave Award
Chester Wickwire Diversity Award

Senior Class

Homewood Award
Old Gold and Sable Award
Dunn Family Award

Student Council

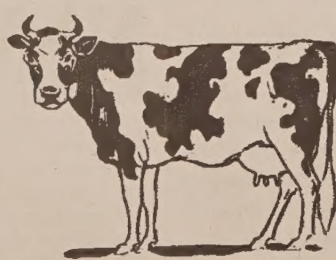
Gold Cup
Gilman Cup
Homewood Cup
Student Excellence Award for Leadership Service
Student Excellence Award for Leadership Service Staff Award
Emerging Leaders Award

Student Involvement

Outstanding Student Organization Award
Outstanding Student Program Award

Applications are available online at the Leadership Recognition site web.jhu.edu/studentprograms.
Nomination details, deadlines and specific criteria are listed for each application.

Juniors: got arts?



Homewood Arts Certificate

Awarded in five non-academic areas
Dance ☐ Digital Media ☐ Fine/Visual Arts ☐ Music ☐ Theatre

Application deadline for all Juniors: Wed. March 1st

For information & application materials:

<http://artsprograms.jhu.edu>
click on: "Arts Certificate Info"

Homewood Arts Programs, Mattin 210
ebeatty@jhu.edu
Info meeting: Friday Feb. 10, 4pm. Mattin 161

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

A smart investment

Hopkins' purchase of the Charles and Blackstone apartment buildings makes perfect sense. The school now owns a contiguous block of real estate with the completion of the Charles Village Project on the horizon. Moreover, the move affords the University a wealth of options as to the buildings' long-term future. Both will easily be woven into Hopkins' plans for a vastly improved Charles Village, and all students should be that much more excited for the future of the block. But even in the excitement of the acquisition, Hopkins must tread carefully. The University now holds the fates of the many non-students that occupy the buildings, as well as that of Hopkins landmark PJ's Pub. Any impetuous decision regarding either could have dire ramifications for both our community relations and our students. Administrators have commented that they haven't made any definite plans for either, but such an agenda is in order. In addition, now that Hopkins is better able to oversee the buildings' security, we must commit to bringing it up to the standard seen on the rest of campus.

Hopkins must address the long-term plans for the buildings. Both employees and residents (of the present and future) deserve a detailed outline of the University's intentions. Our focus on community relations could easily be undermined if employees or residents feel they are being pushed out. The *News-Letter* advocates a five- to ten-year plan that includes turning both the Charles and Blackstone into 100 percent student housing. Of course, residents would need to be noti-

fied as soon as possible.

Regardless of whether or not the buildings become full-fledged student housing, Hopkins should seek donors to fund renovations of both. A renovated (or at least cleaned up) Charles and Blackstone would be the perfect compliment to the new amenities provided by the Charles Village Project. But until renovations are imminent, rent should remain at the same level, if not decreased. Many students have paid a premium for the close proximity to campus afforded by the two buildings, and now Hopkins has the opportunity to make rent more affordable and the buildings more accessible to a majority of upperclassmen.

PJ's must never be closed down. No single move would be so counterintuitive to Hopkins' aim of fostering improved student life than the closure of one of students' favorite hang-outs. PJ's is a landmark, and Hopkins needs to consider it as such now that the University will be receiving their checks.

As for security, several administrators have already championed the review and improvement of the buildings' security, and that concern should be immediately addressed as appropriate. We're sure that a prompt security inventory will be at the top of Hopkins' agenda.

The purchase of the Charles and Blackstone is a great opportunity for Hopkins, but mismanagement of the buildings could turn it into a great blunder. Students have long enjoyed the proximity and amenities that the Charles and Blackstone offer. Let's hope it only gets better.

Bloomberg U.

Hopkins has not released the name of the donor who gave \$100 million to the University last week to help fund the renovation of Gilman Hall, the new Children's Tower at the hospital, research at the Institute for Cell Engineering and other initiatives at the School of Public Health.

However, with the Associated Press' announcement this past week attributing the gift to Hopkins alumnus and New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, the donation has gained more attention and is far from secret. What remains unknown to most of us is the total amount of money Michael Bloomberg has donated to the University so far, but it is believed to number in the hundreds of millions.

According to the University, Bloomberg's total lifetime donations to Hopkins have been around \$108 million, not including this and other "anonymous" donations that for all we know may have been made by Bloomberg. He has truly been a champion of Hopkins' educational and scientific causes.

Bloomberg's donations have had a great impact on the students, faculty and staff of Hop-

kins. In his autobiography, Bloomberg writes about his philanthropic donations, stating, "So when I donate my money (Johns Hopkins is the primary beneficiary of my philanthropic gifts), when I donate my time, when I give the little insight I have, I make a global contribution to society."

The truth is that with the latest donation, Bloomberg has made our chances of success as a university community much higher, in addition to making him the most widely talked about alum on the Homewood Campus. He has been one of our biggest supporters not only financially, but also by directly participating in the operations of the University through past positions on the Board of Trustees.

At a school that has such a low percentage of alumni giving back to the University, Bloomberg has set an example for all of us — both current and former students — in encouraging the tradition of giving back to our alma mater. Perhaps Bloomberg's donation will inspire other alumni to be more generous to Hopkins. Either way, we have to say thanks.

Phase 2: Better food

Well, folks, it looks like the long and hungry wait is nearly over. The administration has moved beyond vague and non-committal promises to improve Hopkins' dining system. Now we have a real prescription for ending the gastrointestinal distress that has plagued undergraduates for decades. The new measures, which range from reconsidering our contractor to renovating existing dining halls and building new ones, appear promising.

The University is finally thinking creatively, as well, with improvements such as a heated tent outside Wolman. Likewise, other measures just make sense: expanding hours at Levering and Wolman to compensate for the closure and renovation of Terrace and allowing students to use blocks in Levering. Still, it's important that the University fully mitigates the inconvenient side effects of having one of the biggest dining halls on campus closed. A year of long lines at Wolman Station won't be acceptable; the University may want to consider a minor renovation of the entrance to the Station that would hasten the flow of students in and out of the facility.

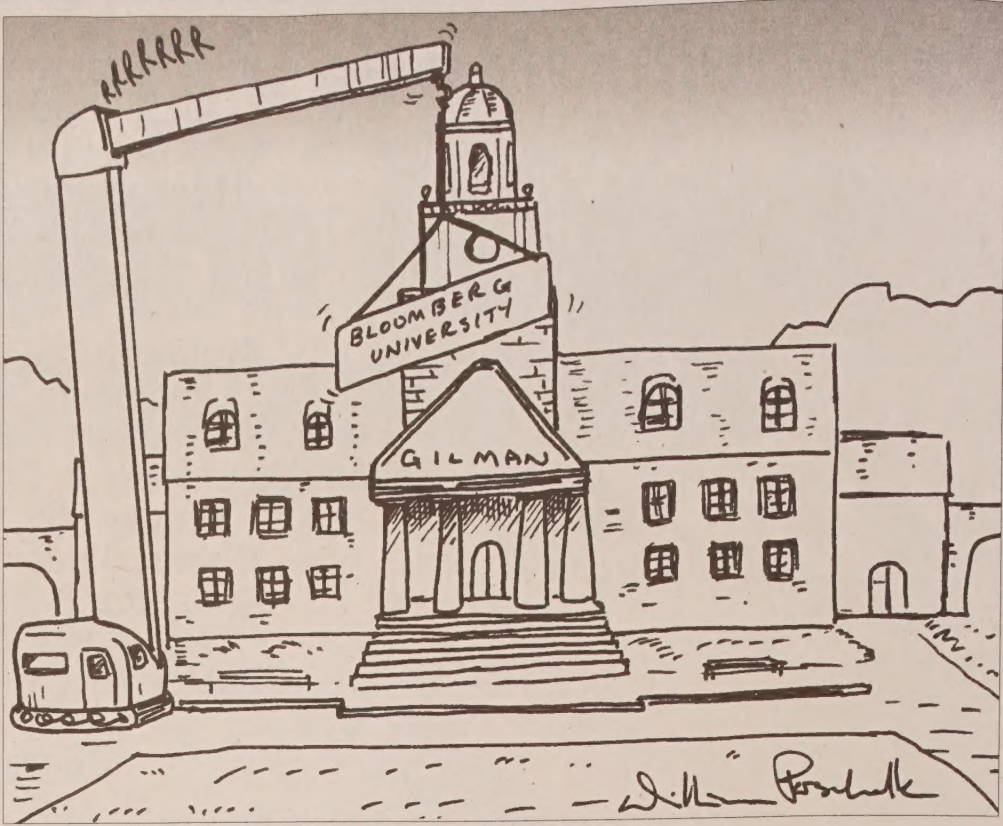
Now that students and administrators are on the same page, it's important we stay on it together. The University must continue to so-

licit student opinions on everything from the décor in the new eating spaces to the new dining contractor.

In much the same way that we expect better food, we also expect more attractive eating accommodations. Hopkins students may not be known for their aesthetic sensibilities, but they don't want to be catered to as if they're in a high school cafeteria. The cafeteria at Levering has proven popular among students, with its mix of social and on-the-go seating options and large-scale reproductions of famous paintings. Perhaps Levering could serve as a model for the new developments at Terrace and Charles Commons.

However, all these renovations won't mean much unless the University drastically improves the quality of the food itself. We're done with salty soups, bone-fragment-containing chicken salads and overcooked pasta. We advocate dropping Sodexo if the school is truly committed to dramatic improvement. A new contract is up for negotiation, and if we continue with the same company that has continually failed to fulfill its promises to change, we'll be sick to our stomachs for more reasons than one.

William Parschalk



LETTERSTOTHEEDITOR

Zerhouni poll was misleading

Although the headline of last week's front page article ("Senior Class Announces Graduation Speaker," Feb. 2) comes across as informative and benign, as news should be, the content of the article itself can be viewed as a misrepresentation of fact and public opinion. The poll included was definitely a distortion of the senior class' views.

The facts that the participants were not restricted to senior class members and the participants could vote as many times as they wanted yielded an inaccurate assessment, concluding that 64 percent of the "senior class members" represented were unhappy with the speaker chosen. In fact, at one point in the polling process, there were more votes than there were seniors!

The main grievance is the inherent disrespect of the efforts of the Senior Council and of the administration involved. However, it seems unfortunate that the handling of this issue has negative implications, not only for those in charge of securing the speaker but also for the speaker himself, whose awareness of this article may deter him from giving his time to the senior class this May. It would

be a shame to think that such a desirable and qualified speaker would be disgraced by an inaccurate poll.

Whether or not Dr. Zerhouni is a better orator than Al Gore or Bill Cosby is irrelevant; his desirability is purely subjective. Despite the inaccuracy of the poll, many are cognizant of the benefits of this highly qualified speaker. This positive sentiment should be adopted by those displeased.

Sam Sherman, Junior
StuCo Executive Secretary

Three cheers for anonymity

Both the Johns Hopkins Ga-

zette and the *News-Letter* this week published news of the anonymous benefactor that generously committed \$100 million to the Knowledge for the World campaign. Despite the puzzling efforts by the University and even local press to maintain secrecy, the *Washington Post* made short work of the matter with the headline "NY mayor donates \$100 mln to stem cell research."

Anonymity does not exist in a world where good will has tax benefits. Nevertheless, we are ever grateful for the gift that will stop the radiators from disrupting our lectures in Gilman.

The question now remains: Which building has a name short enough to accommodate an additional nine letters?

Mark Sugi

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins *News-Letter* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and can not be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Gatehouse
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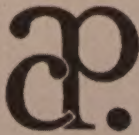
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Keep MSE open 24 hours a day

Although everyone complains about the culture of Hopkins campus—the lack of good parties, the intense amount of work, the international students destroying every imaginable non-humanities curve—I figure we aren't really looking in the right places to open up socially. I propose a simple solution that will solve one of the woes of the Hopkins campus. Keep the MSE library open 24 hours a day.

Every good student knows that the most social place on campus is the library. Instead of trying to create more avenues for dance parties or social events, the best thing that we can do is encourage more all-nighters from our student body.

Now I can already imagine the outraged response to this point. Some of the more narrow-minded members of the student body might say the Hut is a nice enough place to study for 24 hours.

Unfortunately for anyone who has studied in the Hut, it is the epitome of the Hobbesian state of nature. If only Hobbes, who wrote that life is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short,” could see BMEs frothing at the mouth, pre-meds setting aflame their fellow students’ books and 40 students scratching and clawing their way for the use of the single unisex bathroom. While my assessment might be a bit hyperbolic, the Hut still leaves plenty to be desired.

The Hut lacks any sort of reasonable climate control. Instead, large

loud fans disturb any sort of study atmosphere, as if guarding your books from undernourished BMEs did not make studying difficult enough. Rats have become an occasional nuisance, having given up on the food at Terrace. Finally, the Hut is almost always crowded and noisy due to a dearth of space and desks. Because of this many “Huttites” are incredibly belligerent and rather uncivilized.

Kane Kim
Guest Column

One particularly nasty tactic I have seen is the “colonization” of a table. Even if one is lucky enough to find an open table, sometimes a much larger group will crowd out the table until one is forced to move off of one’s claimed territory. Perhaps a microcosm of U.S. foreign policy, this type of behavior only increases the perceptions of Hopkins as a cutthroat school.

MSE Library, on the other hand, is much more kind and gentle to the harried Hopkins student’s soul, having full climate control and better overall tables and individual desks, not to mention a much broader selection of books and periodicals. The solution again is clear: to open up MSE for those who find themselves consistently going to the Hut. Having discussed this already with some heads of MSE including Jerry Hicks, a budget officer at the Library Dean’s Office, they find this solution not too unreasonable. There is always a decent sized group of people studying in the darkness and evil of the Hut, and it would not be too impractical to move these students to MSE.

An argument could arise that many of these raucous “Hut” students would merely transfer their bellicosity to the confines of MSE. However, the presence of legitimate security (rather than a sleepy student monitor) would help maintain calm. Furthermore, the MSE can have a more relaxing effect to those that come uncivilized from the Hut. Simple things like the air conditioning and better computers can help make the studying environment a lot more learning-friendly.

Previously, we have demonstrated the ability to open MSE for 24 hours during reading periods, although obviously at some cost. Nonetheless, we can choose to leave M level open 24 hours and close the rest of the library down. It wouldn’t be too expensive to have a security monitor posted. If cleaning and maintenance became an issue, we could maintain normal weekend library hours to leave aside some time for cleaning.

These types of suggestions have been taken in by the library directors and are being considered. They are mulling over whether to keep the library open for an hour longer, until 3 a.m. However, I say the 3 a.m. solution is insufficient for two reasons. The first is that many already feel that MSE is the more ideal place to study. Why force others to study in an obviously inferior space? Secondly, the “walk of shame” from MSE to the Hut at 2 a.m. is something I feel no future Hopkins student should ever have to make. To top all this off, Gilman will be shut down soon for renovation. Let’s move on this issue and make MSE’s resources available at all hours.

—Kane Kim is a junior economics major from Englewood Cliffs, N.J.



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Beware of man-bird

Forgive me if I still seem a little shaken. I was threatened today, physically threatened. By a man-bird.

OK, I wasn’t *actually* threatened, but I was (and continue to be) gripped by the fear that I might be. Imagine: I’m walking down the street, minding my own business, and BAM! Man-bird! He swoops down, threatens to peck and gouge, takes my wallet, disparages the sanctity of human life and flies away.

Barely a week ago, I took comfort in the knowledge that there were no such things as man-birds. If anything in my life was going wrong, I just had to remind myself that grotesque, half-man, half-bird creatures did not exist and could never attack me with their razor talons or paralyze me with their deafening shriek. It made me feel better. But now I live in constant terror. I know that, at any moment, a man-bird can attack me or anyone I hold dear.

Thank the Intelligent Designer above! President Bush understands my concerns and is ready to act. In last week’s State of the Union address, Bush issued his stance on one of the gravest problems our nation has ever faced: human-animal hybrids.

“Tonight I ask you,” said our resolute leader, “to pass legislation to prohibit the most egregious abuses of medical research: human cloning in all its forms, creating or implanting embryos for experiments, creating human-animal hybrids, and buying, selling or patenting human embryos. Human life is a gift from our Creator, and that gift should never be discarded, devalued or put up for sale.”

Human-animal hybrids? Patenting human embryos? Evil scientists are going to create armies of horrible man-beasts and then collect royalties from them and anyone else who was ever, at some point, an embryo.

So are you, reader, afraid of these terrible consequences of rampant human cloning? Bush hopes you are, because if you’re afraid of these ludicrous scenarios, you’re much less likely to think and ask questions. This is one of Bush’s favorite tactics. Remember “the smoking gun that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud?” The message underneath the fear-mongering in both of these instances is unmistakable: Follow me and I’ll protect you. No need to think about anything beyond your own safety.

So what exactly is Bush keeping us safe from? He would like you to believe

that it’s man-birds, but in actuality, it’s stem cells. While he was expounding on his ever-growing list of Things Americans Should Fear, Bush neglected to mention that he was making no distinction between reproductive and therapeutic human cloning.

Reproductive cloning refers to taking a cloned embryo to term and having the baby. Therapeutic cloning, however, refers to implanting DNA

material into an enucleated ovum with the aim of creating a blastocyst from which stem cells can be harvested. Those stem cells are

blank slates and can form a healthy version of any cell in the human body, providing a possible cure for those who suffer from a variety of diseases.

Reproductive cloning is reprehensible, but not for any of the reasons that Bush describes. It is reprehensible because we don’t know how to do it right, and any attempt at cloning a human would likely yield a person with innumerable genetic defects.

Therapeutic cloning, though, is capable of creating enough stem cell lines to vault stem cell research to the level where it should already be without the partisan political and ideological bickering. Stem cell research can save lives, and it is shameful that we are allowing people to suffer while debating the humanity of a clump of cells or hearing intentionally misleading horror stories from our president.

I recognize the tension that this issue evokes. There are many intelligent, reasonable people who believe that life begins at conception and to destroy a fertilized egg is murder. But I find it hard to consider a blastocyst a “life.” It cannot think or feel, it cannot decide how it wants to “live.” But what it can do is save people’s lives, people who think and eat and laugh and breathe, people crippled by disease. The choice to destroy an embryo for any reason is saddening, but we have a long history of making hard choices for the good of humanity. An opportunity like stem cell research cannot be ignored.

So instead of ignoring it, Bush decided to disguise it science fiction. He wants to paint over opportunity with ideology and try to con the American people into supporting it. Even if Bush’s man-birds don’t exist, his deceptive rhetoric founded in far-right dogma is all too real.

—Zach Goodman is a junior international studies and Writing Seminars major from Warren, N.J.

Vegetarians come in too many shades of green

During Intersession, I was lucky enough to go on a trip to Israel involving a significant amount of hiking. This journey, which promised contact with nature in one of the most beautiful countries on earth, unsurprisingly attracted a large number of new-agers. We had all kinds: yoga fanatics, astrology buffs, meditation gurus, neo-pagans, amber-clad hippies, homeopathic quacks and not-so quacks, and every manner of vegetarian.

On my first morning with this group I was eating breakfast in the hotel restaurant and generally minding my own business when two girls (is that what you call young twenty-somethings?) sat down across from me. One had only a cup of tea, the other a plate full of greens. There was no time like the present to get to know these people, so clearly my best option was small talk.

“Gee, I wish I could eat so healthfully,” I said to the one with salad on her plate. (I was using the Waxman charm that never, ever works.) She chuckled slightly.

Immediately, her tea-drinking compatriot turned and stared at me fixedly. “Wishes can go a long way,” she said. “It’s a choice. Your choice.” She was as serious as cancer.

My deflation was quite thorough. She had obliterated my small talk, ren-

dered it so much verbal sewage. I had slept some five hours out of the last few days. (Among the ill effects of an international voyage are a temporary total loss of the biological time-keeping faculty; apparently mine was damaged something fierce.) A day earlier I

was gallivanting in Manhattan and now I was roughly a mile away from Lebanon. There was no time in my life in which I was less prepared to hear about the defining philosophies of another’s life.

This girl was a vegan, and a militant one at that. A pin on her bag opined, “Love animals, don’t eat them.” She she embraced her health food consumption with a Rumsfeldesque aggressiveness. *National Review* once called this type of person a “vegemaniac.” I asked her what she thought of meat grown in a laboratory, a development nearly upon us, but I think she might have vomited on me had I not made a rapid and somewhat clumsy escape from her leafy clutches.

Another of my touring cohorts explained to me that he is a pescetarian. This was a term I had never heard, although my knowledge of Latinate roots was sufficient to ascertain its meaning — basically, a vegetarian who still eats fish. I asked him by what miracle of denial he was able to maintain what appeared to be an intellectually untenable position. After all, how can one claim ethical opposition to the consumption of animals while retain-

ing a willingness to eat some of them? “Well, fish are all slimy,” he suggested. “I guess I just have less sympathy for them.” I have great respect for this system, which I have dubbed the “ugly” diet.

There was also an ovo-vegetarian on the trip. She wouldn’t eat meat or dairy, but had no qualms with eggs. This is a sensible idea that eliminates the hypocrisy of pro-choice vegetarianism. What do you say to that? If you refuse to eat an embryonic life form on the grounds that it ends the life of an animal then you might as well join the loonies who gather on N. Charles street to compare abortion to the Holocaust.

Needless to say, I don’t subscribe to a diet that could be classically defined as “vegetarian.” I really only consume one specific kind of green. For the most part, I adhere to a strict Woody Allen eating regimen. According to Allen’s prophetic 1973 film *Sleeper*, a tale of the distant future, we will all one day eat like I do:

Dr. Melik: [puzzled] ... wheat germ, organic honey and ... tiger’s milk?

Dr. Aragon: Oh, yes. Those are the charmed substances that some years ago were thought to contain life-preserving properties.

Dr. Melik: You mean there was no deep fat? No steak or cream pies or ... hot fudge?

Dr. Aragon: [chuckling] Those were thought to be unhealthy ... precisely the opposite of what we now know to be true.

Dr. Melik: Incredible!
—Simon Waxman is a junior international studies major from Newton, Mass.

As Iran asserts itself, a crisis blooms

July 2006: After three decades of repressing student reformers, suppressing dissidents and threatening American troops and allies, Iran successfully enriches uranium, allowing it to build nuclear weapons.

Such a terrifying future seems best left to fiction. Yet with the hard-line regime in Iran continuing to defy the international community and develop a nuclear program, such a scenario is far closer to reality.

Led by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the radical Iranian regime has expressed in words and actions its intolerance of domestic dissent, its hostility towards America, Israel and others and its intention to pursue nuclear weapons.

After the presidency of Mohammad Khatami ended with hope for real reform stifled by the hard-line establishment, extremist elements have reasserted their control of the country under the new president Ahmadinejad. The regime has increased support for terrorist groups in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories, even going so far as to sanction a “martyrs campaign.”

Ahmadinejad has proudly declared that Holocaust never happened, that “anybody who rec-

ognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation’s fury” and that “we shall soon experience a world without the United States.”

Extremist ideology is not limited to the president. Hashemi Rafsanjani, who finished second in the recent presidential elections and now serves as the senior advisor to the Supreme Leader, has declared that Israel could be entirely destroyed with a single atom bomb while the far larger Iran could not.

However, there is the other side to Iran. In a country of over 70 million, 70 percent of the population is under 25. And based on the protest efforts in recent years, their frustration is mounting. Disillusioned with an ideology that has only brought a sluggish economy and the restriction of political and social freedoms, many in the generation born after the 1979 Revolution are displaying their anger publicly.

The hot-zones for these protests are the country’s universities. Beginning in 1995 students have repeatedly expressed their disgust with the regime’s restriction of liberties. Students have

also demonstrated empathy for the U.S., holding an impromptu candlelight vigil after the attacks of 9/11 and applying in great numbers to immigrate to America.

The regime has shown no mercy in responding to these liberal sentiments, arresting more than 4,000 students in 1999 and according to Human Rights Watch and sending government thugs to terrorize students in their dorms.

Today, the regime is working to remake universities into centers of xenophobia, holding conferences that call for the destruction of Israel and, this spring, a conference questioning the validity of the Holocaust. The only speakers at these “academic events” are government hardliners, neo-Nazis disgraced academics invited from abroad.

If Iran is to initiate reforms offering enhanced social and political rights, its students will be at the forefront of these efforts. Although students in Iran are divided about the ways to achieve such freedoms, they are often united in feeling that changes should have occurred by now.

Sam Chester
Guest Column

As students and as Americans, we should express solidarity with the students’ right to voice their concerns. We should stand behind international human rights organizations and courageous reformers like Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi in their calls for the release of political prisoners and an end to the regime’s police brutality, suppression of dissent and vigilante justice. And finally, we should urge our government to do all it can to ensure that nuclear weapons do not fall under the control of the hardliners who currently dominate the Iranian government.

Nuclear weapons will allow the hard-line Iranian regime to not only maintain its repressive policies but to intensify them. Encouraged by the world’s failure to halt their nuclear program, Iran will be further emboldened to continue its interference in Iraq, its support of international terrorism and its threatening actions against America and our allies in the region.

July 2006 may seem a long way off. But it is our responsibility to ensure that in the future we will not have to ask ourselves how a dystopian fiction became reality.

—Sam Chester is a freshman international and East Asian studies major from Minneapolis, Minn.

SCIENCE

“Free” online downloads can cost you

By DAVID YUI
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Web surfing can turn into a nightmare if the proper precautions against spyware are not taken. Once these uninvited programs start invading your computer, it may take some time before you can restore it to its original setting.

With the proliferation of spyware on the Internet, more and more computer users are falling victim to spyware. According to research conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, 59 million American adults, or 43 percent of home Internet users at one point have had spyware infect their home computers.

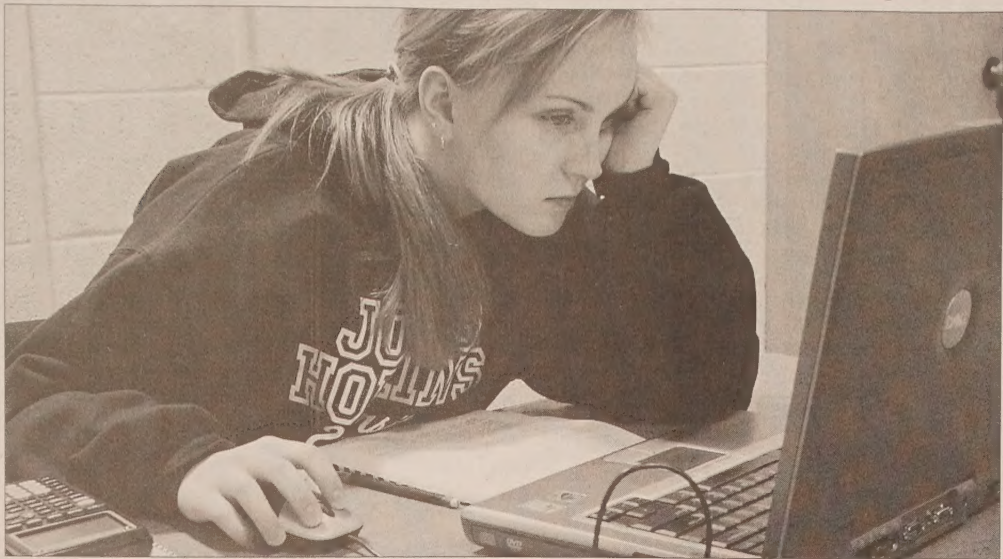
Spyware are usually installed by clicking on e-mail links, banner ads on Web sites and downloading files. They can also be found in popular file-sharing programs like Kazaa.

Spyware use the computer's memory and processor while running and cause them to slow down. They invade privacy by sending personal information back to the spyware designers and other interested parties. These may take the form of cookies that keep track of browsing habits and contain detailed profiles of the user.

A spyware can barrage you with advertisements, change your computer settings and crash your computer.

Certain spyware known as key loggers record your keystrokes as you type and send the information back to the program designers. These can track your IDs, passwords and credit card information leading to possible identity theft.

It's difficult enough to get rid of spyware once detected, but some spyware can run “behind the scenes” and monitor your surfing habits. These programs remain undetected to the naked



Freshman Britta Rauck has a hard time browsing the web due to spyware that was inadvertently installed on her laptop.

eye and start when the computer is powered on.

You'll know if you have spyware when your computer runs slower than normal, your browser home page has changed and new sites are added to your Favorites list. Unknown Web sites may also appear while you are browsing the Web.

If you don't have a spyware removal program installed on your computer, you should download one as soon as possible since some spyware programs prevent installation of removal software.

It should be noted that spyware prevention programs are different from spyware removal programs. Prevention programs like SpywareBlaster and SpywareGuard are effective tools that decrease the possibility of spyware appearing on your computer.

In order to effectively protect yourself from various types of spyware, you should run an antivirus software along with an anti-spyware program.

TIPS FROM IT@JHU

- If you find yourself constantly under spyware attack, use a firewall to restrict Internet activity or set your browser security settings to medium or higher.

- You may want to download pop-up and cookie blocker software.

- Be cautious when downloading browser plug-ins because they may contain spyware.

- Create a second e-mail account and use this when filling out forms online to download a screensaver or play a game. The information on the form may be used by spammers who'll send you unwanted advertisements.

- Think twice about clicking on pop-up ads. One click can result in a spyware download and installation, a method commonly used and known as “drive by.”

- You should download the MS

AntiSpyware at <http://www.microsoft.com> and the Adware Personal program at <http://www.lavasoft.com>. Both of these are normally used by the department and download free of charge.

- Think twice about clicking on pop-up ads. One click can result in a spyware download and installation, a method commonly used and known as “drive by.”

- Make sure you back up your files once a week. Spyware can crash your computer and erase all the information on your hard drive. Afterwards, you may have a difficult time retrieving the lost information.

- Finally, keep your system up-to-date by downloading updates for your operating software and applications. Some spyware software exploit loopholes and security flaws inherent in older versions.

Bone marrow program seeks potential donors

By SANDYA NAIR
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 14 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Glass Pavilion on the Homewood campus.

In addition to the blood drive, the Red Cross will hold registration for potential bone marrow donors. In particular, Charlene Moor Hayes, vice president of human resources encourages “faculty, staff and students of color to register ... to address the shortage of bone marrow donors from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.”

Bone marrow transplants are potentially life-saving treatments for patients with leukemia, anemia, lymphoma or other blood-related diseases.

Most patients seek donations from genetically matched family members, but according to the Inland Northwest Blood Center, about 70 percent of patients do not find such a match. In response to this dilemma, the National Marrow Donor Program was established in 1987.

The National Marrow Donor Program seeks to match patients with volunteer donors from within the patient's racial or ethnic group so that there is

a match between patient and donor tissue types. However, according to the National Bone Marrow Donor program, there is a dearth of donors who are identified as Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or Hispanic or Latino.

Currently, the percentages of ethnic groups on the registry are: 71.5 percent Caucasian, 1.6 percent Native American, 7.1 percent Hispanic, 5.7 percent Asian/Pacific Islander and 7.8 percent African American.

To join the National Marrow Donor Program's registry, potential donors must complete a health questionnaire, sign a consent form to have their tissue types listed in the registry until the donor turns 61, and provide a blood sample for testing tissue type.

There is no appointment required to register to be a bone marrow donor at the American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, but appointments to donate blood are highly encouraged.

Appointments can be made online at <http://www.jhu.edu/outreach/blooddrive>, by e-mailing or calling John Black at 410) 516-0138. Eligibility for new and returning donors can be checked at <http://www.my-redcross.org>.

CLICK OF THE WEEK

While time and work drag many college students from reality, a new Web site called <http://www.blinkxTV.com> lets you to catch up with current news. Now catching up on the latest news around the globe can be easily accessed by viewing it through online videos. The Web site has categories ranging from science to sports. Also, the Web site has many different media sources, ranging from CNN to Fox News. Rather than waking up to your wacky news headlines on AOL, you can watch what you want.

— Ricardo Lopez

Web sites stream TV programs on Internet

By STEPHEN BERGER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The future of television is here. It is interactive, democratic and hip. It blends TV and Internet seamlessly. And you are its prime target. At least, that's the theory behind two new projects, Current and mtvU, which cater to the college student with a range of entertainment, news and educational programs online and on TV.

Current, which was announced late last year, attempts to take the pulse of a generation that lives on Mountain Dew and instant messaging.

It offers short, fast-paced videos creative fare, some more avant-garde than others, as well as news updates and mini-documentaries on a va-

riety of subjects — almost all of which are produced and selected by viewers. (One of the most interesting is an hourly update on the most frequently Googled terms.)

A parallel effort called mtvU Über, or mtvU, provides similar programming with a greater emphasis, unsurprisingly, on music and pop culture.

Many of the network's shows appear to be mini-versions of popular MTV programs, with familiar-sounding names like *15 Minutes With...* or *Hypnotize My Roommate*.

Again, music and videos of the people, by the people and for the people are highlighted, along with a host of advice for the college student on everything from dorms to jobs.

The theory behind both networks embraces the indepen-

dence of savvy college-types by allowing them to play a role in the programming they view.

Current has set up a system that asks individuals to submit five-minute video segments online.

Most of these segments, which Current calls pods, make their way onto <http://www.current.tv>, the channel's Web site, where they can be discussed and voted on.

The most popular segments are shown on TV, while the rest are available for viewing online.

Much of the content on mtvU is created by the pros at MTV, but it features the lives and talents of college students across the country.

On mtvU's Web site, <http://www.mtvU.com>, viewers can opt to watch a live streaming version of the channel, or they can select individual programs, even saving them to a setlist of favorite shows.

Signing up to be on the mtvU student council allows users to participate in online focus groups about the channel's programming.

Both networks emphasize awareness and social responsibility as part of their missions.

Current frequently runs mini-documentaries on current events, such as inner-city poverty and unrest in Haiti.

An ongoing campaign at mtvU teaches viewers about the situation in the Sudan and urges them to help out. The channel also donates \$1,500 to a different student service organization each week.

The boundaries between entertainment, news and the real world continue to blur. The impact new-format media like Current and mtvU will have is unclear, although they have been slow to catch on — no students interviewed last weekend at Hopkins had heard of either one.

But as viewers become participants and programming responds even more quickly to its audience, innovators like these deserve a click of the mouse.

IS IT TRUE?

Can exercising at night disrupt your sleep?

Exercise is an important aspect of a healthy lifestyle. In fact, exercise reduces stress, eases muscle tension, and improves the individual's psychological well being among other benefits. But is the timing important?

Fitness and sleep experts encourage intense workouts in the mornings and afternoons rather than late-evenings claiming that exercise is stimulating to the body.

More specifically, they believe that the adrenaline surge during a workout requires at least three hours to subside thus inhibiting sleep if exercise is done within three hours of bedtime.

Very few studies have been published on this topic and most findings do not promote the claim that exercise inhibits sleep.

In one study, published in the *Journal of Physiology and Behavior* in 1998, college students exercised moderately for an hour on two separate nights: 90 minutes before bedtime as well as 30 minutes

before bedtime. There were no significant effects on the duration and pattern of sleep.

Dr. Shawn D. Youngstedt at the University of South Carolina has studied the relationship between sleep and exercise extensively.

He states exercise within two hours of bedtime improved or had no effect on sleep duration and pattern.

Youngstedt claims that exercise can, in fact, promote sleep by easing tension and raising the body temperature.

Based on the thermogenic hypothesis, the sleep mechanism, exercise, which elevates body temperature, and enhances sleep.

Evidently, the effects vary from person to person.

Although experts do not recommend intense workouts in the late evening, studies have shown that such workouts do not have a negative effect on sleep duration.

Therefore, individuals are encouraged to include late-evenings as they experiment on the optimum exercise timing.

— by Ishrat Ahmed

Rocky Run

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* * *

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* * *

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* * *

Carryout on all items

* * *

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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

Book lovers find treasures in free haven

The Book Thing of Baltimore, Inc. provides a platform of exchange between book donors and book seekers without charge

By NATALIE BAER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

When the bookstore wouldn't buy back some of my books, a friend suggested that I take them to The Book Thing and trade them in for new reading. The Book Thing, founded by ex-bartender Russell Wattenberg, is a nonprofit organization that collects donated books and gives them out free of charge. Located until recently in a row house basement, it has since moved to 3001 Vineyard Lane and is only a short walk from the Homewood Campus.

Browsing the shelves in the four-room structure are mothers and their children, students and professors. Renee Reabe has been visiting The Book Thing for several years. "There's some amazing stuff here. I like to get stuff for collages. It's my artistic outlet ... Today I found some German and Russian magazines from the 1960s and 70s."

She tracked me down later

to show off a "Kat Kong" book. "Could you find this anywhere else?" she asked, adding it to her pile.

Every book has its story. There are people who come in to The Book Thing and find copies of books they owned as children, their names still scrawled on the inside cover. Humanitarians come in and take books to start libraries or box up out-of-date computer manuals to ship abroad. Those who cannot afford to pay for a college education teach themselves biology or physics with donated textbooks.

Wattenberg considers himself "a facilitator" in this process. However, facilitating an operation like this is no easy task. He dedicates at least 100 hours a week to the full-time task of running The Book Thing and sorts through about 30,000 books per week, getting books from such sources as overstock Johns Hopkins Press books and out-of-date books from college

professors. "Turnover is fast," Wattenberg comments, as he stands knee-deep in page upon page of novels, German books, and magazines, sorting them



NATALIE BAER/NEWS-LETTER
Reabe happily shows her "catch" of the day, *Kat Kong*.

into boxes to be shelved.

In addition, the monthly mortgage payment is \$1,500, which is funded through donations. Only the most precious — about 0.5 percent — of the donated books are sold for profit. The rest are available to anyone who wants to adopt them.

"I can do this," he says, "because I have no other responsibilities. No wife, no kids, no elderly parents that need taking care of. It's just me ... and Miss Marple." He gestures to his ten-year-old cat.

Meanwhile, volunteers work quickly to sort and stack books, which are stamped "not for resale," then sorted into categories and shelved. On this day, Johns Hopkins' APO service fraternity helped sort books. Junior Pam Klein mentioned that though it was her "first time" working at The Book Thing, she would be back: "It's fun. ... Going through books you'd never even lay eyes on. I mean just in these boxes are books on cheese recipes, art

history. I found *Memoirs of a Geisha* in this box."

A local philosopher started coming to The Book Thing when he heard about it on NPR. He compares looking through books here to "a spiritual quest. ... These people are searching for something. ... They don't know what it is yet, but it fulfills a spiritual part of themselves," he said, arms filled with books on near-eastern philosophy.

He identified himself only as "a searcher — same as everybody." He seemed today to have found some of what he is searching for.

All you need to do to take books is fill out a book sign-out, which asks for a name ("I don't care; you can make up whatever name you want," says Wattenberg), the number of books taken and a comment. It is already an inch high this day, with some people taking hundreds of books.

"Thank you," I write, carrying out a copy of *Memoirs of a Geisha*. I'll be back.

The Book Thing is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



NATALIE BAER/NEWS-LETTER
Booklovers search through thousands of books on the shelves for their favorite picks.

BALTIMORE events your kind of town

You're back to Baltimore after a long-haul flight or ride from your cozy bed at home.

your tracks

For the girls out there, and for the thoughtful guys who want to share a song with a Diane, Suzanne or Michelle, here is a "girls' names" themed list of tracks:

1. "Diane" (Guster)
2. "Suzanne" (Weezer)
3. "Photo Jenny" (Belle and Sebastian)
4. "Emaline" (Ben Folds)
5. "Julia" (Chocolate Genius)
6. "Jacqueline" (Franz Ferdinand)
7. "Believe Me Natalie" (The Killers)
8. "Thoughts of Mary Jane" (Nick Drake)
9. "Michelle" (The Beatles)
10. "Stephanie Says" (The Velvet Underground)
11. "Anna Begins" (Counting Crows)
12. "For Emily, Whenever I May Find Her" (Simon and Garfunkel)
13. "Sad Lisa" (Cat Stevens)
14. "Maria" (Green Day)
15. "Layla" (Eric Clapton)

— compiled by Natalie Baer

Not so excited? Well, before you find yourself buried under all the papers and exams (hey, stay out of the library, it's just the first week of school!), maybe this is the semester you should start thinking out of the box, out of the campus and out of campus. There's plenty happening around Baltimore if you would just venture out of your comfort zone in Charles Village a little bit. Here's a little overview of what's hot in the city. You should also check out <http://baltimore.eventguide.com>, <http://www.baltimore.org> and local city papers for the latest events.

FEBRUARY

Wedding on Ice

Inner Harbor Ice Rink
300 Key Hwy.
Feb. 14
You're probably not yet married, but wouldn't be a sweet thing to watch a large group of couples renewing their wed-

ding vows on Valentine's Day? An official ceremony will start at noon at the Inner Harbor Ice Rink. You never know, it might be an opportunity for you and your sweetheart. For more information call (410) 385-0675.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.COPUTER-CHAIR-TRAVELER.ORG](http://www.coputer-chair-traveler.org)

2006 Motor Trend International Auto Show

<http://www.motortrendautoshow.com/baltimore>
Baltimore Convention Center
1 W. Pratt St.
Feb. 9 to 12
Interested in cars? Conveniently held at the Baltimore Convention Center, this may be the thing for all the car fans. Featuring hundreds of new cars, trucks, minivans and sport utility vehicles, the auto show will satisfy those of you who have a penchant for the autos. You might even catch some entertainment or celebrities schedule for the show. For more information call (410) 649-7000.



MARCH

St. Patrick Parade

<http://www.stpatrickdayparade.com>
Mar. 12
Coming to its 48th year, the Baltimore St. Patrick Parade features thousands who participate in the celebration of Irish culture through music, song and dance. The parade begins at 2 p.m. at the Washington Monument and ends at Pratt Street and Market Place. Along with the parade is the Shamrock 5K race where you could even win a ticket to Ireland. For more information call (410) 750-8617.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.STPATRICKSDAYPARADE.COM](http://www.stpatrickdayparade.com)

— compiled by Joseph Ho

5 Best Online Florists

FOR YOUR VALENTINE

— compiled by Shawn Fu

Valentines' Day is on the way — you know you've got to do something about it. Flowers might be a cliché, but they certainly do the job. You really don't want to save up on this one.

Here are certain things you want to do when you order your sweetheart flowers:

- 1 Order early! Avoid having to pay expedited or next-day shipping fees and make sure you get the best selection by placing your order earlier. Expect to pay around \$10 for regular shipping.
- 2 Consider ordering a vase along with the flowers, if one is not included already. Alternatively, you could buy one locally. Just keep in mind that the recipient of your flowers may not have a proper container handy to show off your fabulous flowers.
- 3 Prefer to do business over the phone? All of these stores offer the option to order by phone. We've listed their contact numbers for your reference.
- 4 Check your credit card's special offers. Many major online florists have agreements with credit card companies that allow you to save money on flowers when you use your card. For example, using your MasterCard and entering a special code at 1-800-Flowers can save you \$10. Also try searching for online coupon codes for these sites in your favorite search engine.
- 5 Dare to go beyond roses. Sure, they're classic and all that, but if you don't get to send flowers often, there's extra excitement in gifting calla lilies arranged in an exquisite crystal vase.

Key:

Value
\$\$\$\$\$ = Excellent
\$ = Poor

Selection

**** = Wide variety, attractive
* = Small variety, dull

PROFLOWERS

<http://www.proflowers.com>
1-800-776-3569

Value: \$\$; Selection: ***

Navigation at ProFlowers proved most confusing out of all of the websites reviewed here. The Valentine's Day collection seemed disjointed and lacked options for sorted viewing. That said, some of their arrangements look quite stunning. Most of their vases, however, lack pizzazz and cost extra to include.

HALLMARK

<http://www.hallmark.com>
1-800-HALLMARK

Value: \$\$\$; Selection: **

Hallmark's online storefront scores big points for offering an elegant and varied assortment of floral arrangements, and for including vases at no extra cost. Prices are just average, however, and the selection doesn't quite match up in terms of creativity or size to the dedicated florist site. Orders include a full-sized personalized Hallmark greeting card.

KABLOOM

<http://www.kabloom.com>
1-800-260-9155

Value: \$\$\$\$; Selection: ****

Though its prices towards the cheaper end of their spectrum start somewhat higher than the competition, arrangements of superb quality and style run throughout KaBloom's Valentine's Day line. The sleek vases pictured in the thumbnails ship with the flowers gratis. Prices seem surprisingly fair.

FTD

<http://www.ftd.com>
1-800-SEND-FTD

Value: \$\$\$; Selection: ***

FTD's site showcases a solid collection of arrangements for Valentine's Day, but after seeing what its competitors have to offer, none of FTD's offerings particularly stands out. Only when you examine the pricier items do some real gems appear. Thankfully, most flowers do come with vases — a big plus.

1-800-FLOWERS

<http://www.flowers.com>
1-800-FLOWERS

Value: \$\$\$\$; Selection: ****

1-800-Flowers carries a selection of arrangements that matches KaBloom in originality and price. One caveat: Their Web site lacks the option to view floral arrangements organized by specific criteria, such as price.

We Are
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1-800-flowers.com
Your florist of choice™

your say

It's the second semester since the school shortened the add/drop period. How is it working for you?

— compiled by Christine Higgins

“It's fine. You don't want to be adding a class five weeks into the semester, anyways. That's too much work to catch up on.”

RENA BARCH
Freshman
International Studies

“It's more difficult to figure out what classes work best into your major and schedule.”

MATT DESANTIS
Freshman
Philosophy

“It adds pressure for people to frantically decide what they're taking.”

PHOEBE QUIN
Sophomore
Undecided

“I imagine it would be very difficult for people with undecided majors who need to figure out classes to fit their schedules.”

ATTICUS DOMAN
Junior
Mathematics

“It didn't affect me, I got all the classes I wanted.”

ROB HUANG
Senior
Biology

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
LAUREN CHUN, TRACK

Chun rises to the occasion for Jays

Freshman pole vaulter nabs the Centennial Conference record and a No. 13 national ranking

By ZACH GOODMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Addiction is a painful thing. It can consume your entire life, leaving you hopelessly dedicated to the object of your obsession. Before long, nothing else matters.

For freshman Lauren Chun, that addiction is pole vaulting.

"I started pole vaulting my freshman year of high school," said Chun. "After sophomore year, I started going to pole vaulting clubs once a week during the school year and twice a week during the summer."

"It's an addicting sport," she said.

And she was hooked. Chun, a resident of central New Jersey, drove to Pennsylvania to satisfy her pole vault craving. Of course, one reason for the trek was necessity. Pole vaulting expertise at her high school was limited.

"They had a coach that had to stand there for liability reasons," said Chun about her high school coaching, if that's what you want to call it. "My sophomore year we had someone try to make stuff up. It was pretty evident that they didn't know what they were talking about."

Chun is lighthearted about her coaching now, but at the beginning of her career, it could have been disastrous. Pole vaulting is not an intuitive sport, and proper form needs to be coached. Chun's love affair with the sport nearly ended right after it began.

"There's a lot to the form. I didn't pick it up as fast as some other people," said Chun. "I almost quit because it was so frustrating."

But when the first meet rolled around, Chun did better than she, or anyone else, had expected. The addiction had set in.

And it's stayed strong through her freshman season at Hopkins, where she has already set the school and Centennial Conference record with a vault of 11'1", which is also the NCAA Provisional Qualifying mark. This weekend, at the Christopher Newport University Invitational, Chun made her best vault of the season, earning

her national recognition with a ranking of No. 13. And it wasn't even her personal best.

"My PR [personal record] is 11'6"," said Chun. That's enough to make everyone in the Hopkins track program excited.

VITAL STATISTICS

Name:	Lauren Chun
Event:	Pole Vault
Major:	Undecided

Hopkins Highlights:
Set the Centennial record by pole vaulting 11'1", provisional qualifier for NCAA Indoor Championships.

"She's only just beginning to touch on what she's going to do here," said head coach Bobby Van Allen. "She has helped raise the standards of the team as a whole."

Van Allen, a more experienced coach than Chun has had before,

understands the feeling of addiction that Chun talks about.

"Once you're at that peak level, each inch can become obsessive," said Van Allen. "You've got to be at your top level of performance

to have the feeling of addiction that she's talking about."

Chun is making sure that she stays at that level.

"I've been training harder," said Chun. "I do pole vault two to three times per week to get the form."

For Chun, form is the only thing between her and the sky, and she's continuing to improve. Having the conference record in her pocket isn't about to slow her down.

"[Reaching] 12'6" would be nice," said Chun. "Maybe 13', but that might be pushing it."

Pushing it, though, is what Chun does best. With the Centennial Conference Indoor Championships coming up in just over two weeks, she'll be trying to break her own record and catapult her team to victory.

For a rising star and raging addict like Chun, though, it's nothing new. She's high on pole vaulting, and luckily there's a mat waiting for her when she comes down.

Track shatters records at CNU Invitational

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
weekend's Vince Brown Invitational at Christopher Newport College.

"I couldn't be more proud of the way we're competing right now," Van Allen said.

The most impressive performance on the day for Hopkins came from freshman pole vaulter Lauren Chun, whose 11'1" mark broke not only her own freshman and school records, but also the Centennial Conference record.

Chun's vault made her a provisional qualifier for the NCAA Championships, and also made her the 13th-ranked pole vaulter in Division III. Hopkins hasn't sent an athlete to an NCAA championship since Kathy Darling won the discus and finished second in the javelin in May of 2003.

Another women's school record was set by the women's 4 x 400-meter relay team of junior Giselle Joseph, freshman Kathy Horn, senior Kathy Cain and freshman Jordan Ireton, who placed fourth in the meet. The squad's time of 4:18.79 broke Hopkins' previous indoor record of 4:20.98, which was set in 2004.

"We have never had this much depth on the women's sprint side," said Van Allen. "We have very healthy inter-

team competition and the results have been apparent at the meets."

In the open 400-meters, Ireton also set a freshman record, running 62.9, placing fifth overall.

The Hopkins women got their last record-setting performance of the weekend from freshman Amarachi Onyima, who threw the shot put 38'7", farther than any freshman in school history.

Onyima took eighth place in the meet, and is now ranked No. 2 in the conference.

The men's team also witnessed a new freshman shot put record, as Peter Li broke his own record with a throw of 43'10", good for fifth place. Li's throw moved him up to No. 7 in the conference.

The men got another big meet out of their sprinting squad. In the 55-meter hurdles, junior Jason Dubyoski, senior Tai Kobayashi and junior Tim Pruiett took first, second and fifth for Division III competitors.

"My guys are flying right now," said Ayen.

The men's sprinters also put together an impressive 4 x 400-meter relay, as the team of Dubyoski, senior Aaron Landgraf, senior Shane Olaleye and Kobayashi placed second overall in a time of 3:30.01. Olaleye

Five reasons XL wasn't that grand

Well, all I can say is, thank Zeus it's over.

In the worst Super Bowl since Baltimore's laughable 27-point butt-whooping of New York in XXXV, the Cinderella sixth-seed Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Seattle "Fraudgawks" by a score of 21-10 in America's greatest city, Detroit.

To say the least, XL wasn't exactly extra large entertainment, from the halftime show to the commercials. On "The Biggest Sunday of the Year," the 90.7 million Americans who had the displeasure of watching the game should have changed the channel. Here are five reasons why:

1. **The Overall Game Quality.** Dropped passes, interceptions galore, terrible special teams, lackluster defense, "Hail Mary" heaves ... in the second quarter! If the field had been as sloppy as the play, the game would have been canceled before it started. I think I've enjoyed watching episodes of *Will & Grace* more than the atrocity that was XL.

The Steelers' field marshal, Big Ben Roethlisberger, completed nine of his 21 passes to his teammates, but managed to complete both of his passes

to the Seahawk's secondary. Roethlisberger's quarterback rating? A dismal 22.6, the lowest for a winning QB in Super Bowl history.

But hey, at least he scored a "touchdown." Or did he? That question brings us to the next reason the game was a joke.

2. **The Officiating** (if you want to call it that). How bad can



Matthew Murray Ruffled Feathers

it get? First, the NFL's wretched officiating crew claims that Troy Polamalu didn't make a "football move" after intercepting Peyton Manning's pass and tumbling longer than the brontosaurus in *King Kong*.

Now, fast forward to this past Sunday, where we saw two more blunders: a holding penalty on Sean Locklear for legally blocking his opponent during a crucial Seattle drive and an offensive pass-interference flag on Darrell Jackson for tapping a Steeler on the shoulder before catching a would-be touchdown pass.

Either Bill Leavy and his ragtag bunch of referees forgot to sleep at a Holiday Inn Express the night before XL or they all got amnesia falling down a flight of pre-game stairs. Does anyone else wonder what those zebras are really watching during their pointless 45-minute play reviews? I'll bet it's a really bad kung-fu movie. Or maybe *Cool Runnings*.

3. **The Halftime Show.** If I wanted to see fossils, I would have gone to a museum. The

Rolling Stones? I mean, couldn't the people who run this Super Bowl thing think of anyone else besides old people?

What about good musical talent, someone who has pep in their step and doesn't sound like a broken gramophone ... like Michael Jackson or R. Kelly? How cool would it have been to see a performance of "Thriller" and "Beat It" followed by "Trapped in the Closet: Parts 1-12"? And just for the record, Mick Jagger's midriff was much more offensive (and for that matter, more repulsive) than Janet Jackson's nipple.

4. **The Commercials.** Usually my favorite aspect of the whole Super event, the commercials this year may have been the biggest letdown. Sure, there were a couple that made me giggle, like Ameriquest's campaign as well as perennial performer Budweiser's lineup of hilarious advert. But other than the few and the proud, they were mostly just wastes of money.

Also, I found it ironic that General Motors, a company that just laid-off 60,000 employees, was willing to pay Kermit the Frog a pretty penny to do a \$2.5 million 30-second stint about the Ford Hybrid Escape.

5. **John Madden and Al Michaels.** Hopefully, one day I'll get the chance to announce a sporting event as big and brilliant as the Super Bowl.

And if that day ever comes, I will pray beforehand that I don't sound like either of the pinheads that did the announcing for ABC on Sunday. I'm sorry, Al, but when you make an analogy comparing the Steelers-Seahawks game to the 1980 "Miracle on Ice," you just sound foolish and old.

As for Mr. Madden, or as I like to call him, "Captain Obvious," well, I think it's time his children put him in the same nursing home that Pat Sumnerall is in ... or anyplace that is not near a microphone or loudspeaker.

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SPORTS

Women's fencing spends Intersession abroad

By MATTHEW MURRAY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

From Jan. 12 to 22, Hopkins' women's fencing team traveled to the National Training Center in Arnhem, Netherlands. At the center, head coach Jim Murray introduced the team to his former colleague and close friend, Rorik Jansen. The Blue Jays were fortunate: They were meeting a legend.

A former fencing world champion from Germany, Jansen is now the head coach of the Holland National Team. Since his arrival, Jansen has single-handedly transformed the country into a fencing contender by sharing his vast knowledge of the sport with his students and by attracting a tremendous amount of developmental financial support.

"Jansen is directly responsible for the fact that currently, Holland has state-of-the-art facilities and three of the top-ten fencers in the world," Murray said.

After the Lady Jays met with other national team members and some top coaches, the squad was given a tour of the facilities at The Papendal National Training Center.

"Overall, I was really impressed by the fact that we had full access to almost anything at the center. Even the hotel rooms had a sports motif. The open-door policy combined with the Hollanders' hospitality made this experience an unforgettable one," Murray said.

On the ten-day trip, the Jays had a daily schedule that included two-hour morning training sessions, afternoon tours of the local sites, talks from speakers and evening visits to club invitation bouts.

During their training sessions, the team and Coach Murray were given both instruction in specific tactical elements and constructive criticism on their individual bout techniques.

When it came to visiting clubs a second time, senior captains Katherine Dunne and Cathy Gallagher decided to exchange team T-shirts with their fencing counterparts. In return



The women's fencing team travelled to Holland over Intersession to train with Dutch teams. The trip combined both training and touring.

for their kind gesture, the team received a handful of different goodies.

"The team really got to know the other fencers. Many of them had lengthy conversations and also traded e-mail addresses," Murray said.

Aside from the rigorous training and demanding match schedule, the team found time for recreational activities. The team got some cross-training in by riding their bikes all

around the area, and visited a local museum filled with Van Gogh originals. Additionally, the Lady Jays took in many of the other sights and sounds of Amsterdam.

"Besides the cultural visit to Amsterdam and seeing the Van Gogh paintings, I think just being in Arnhem was historically enriching in itself," Murray said. Arnhem, a city of about 140,000, was a landing site for U.S. parachutists during World

War II.

The trip was a success in the minds of the Hopkins women's team and also in the mind of their head coach.

"Other than getting lost on a side street during one of our tourism adventures, we had no problems on our visit to Europe. Hopefully now our team can take what they learned in Holland and utilize it to the best of their ability here," Murray said.

The AFL takes away the ego, adds wall-tackling

College basketball hasn't really excited me ever since all of the good young players started making a mad dash for the NBA. On a related note, I've lost interest in the NBA ever since it became full of untalented wannabes who clearly made the jump to the pros before they learned how to pass the ball.

Thus, the two months between the Super Bowl and the opening day of baseball has recently been a dark, depressing time for me.

But this year, mark my words, that's all going to change.

I say this after watching the opening weekend of Arena Football League on NBC. I'm not saying that I intend to start following the AFL in the way I'd follow a real sport. For one, I don't have a team to root for. Massachusetts (my home state) and Baltimore don't have teams, but for the record, Grand Rapids does. I don't even know where Grand

Rapids is.

But most importantly, there is something irrevocably silly about the league. The tiny little fields, the weird rule changes, the fact that the teams have stupid names like "SaberCats" and "Wranglers" — the league is a little too eccentric to take seriously.

Despite all that, I still love the AFL for one simple reason (two simple reasons if you count "seeing guys get tackled into a wall"):

There's something refreshing about a league in transition.

The television deals are just starting to roll in for the league, and an EA Sports video game hit stores last Tuesday, yet the average player salary is only around \$70,000 a year.

Sure, that's a hell of a lot better than a high school teacher, and most teachers will never be featured in a video game. But for some reason, professional athletes' salaries tend to turn them into the kids from *Lord of the Flies* — getting paid that much just brings out the worst in people. Somewhere between Latrell Sprewell complaining that he has a family to feed and Johnny Damon selling his soul for an extra \$3 million a year, I became disillusioned.

I'm always a little shocked when I hear about how many people watch NASCAR in the parts of the country that I pretend don't exist, but it kind of makes sense. Who is the average sports fan going to identify with — a guy who turns down a \$7 million contract and says it's a matter of his family's survival, or a guy who looks like he belongs on *King of the Hill*?

What makes arena football great is that it is a sport for the people. After all, what could be more American than a bunch of screaming fans, packed into a stadium, watching guys play football on a converted basketball court in April? Most of the AFL fans you see on TV look like they just wandered in from the county fairgrounds. And that is the way things ought to be.

Sure, the players' salaries might put them above "Average Joe" status, but it's low enough to rid the AFL of the worst part of other professional sports: the egos. The league makes sure to pack the players' benches right in front of the first-row fans, and it's not rare to see a player dole out high fives after getting stopped at the wall.

And all that suffices to make arena football seem like it's actually real. That's the reason why people get more into college basketball than the NBA — because the players are "real" people, just like the fans, not a bunch of overpaid slackers who only begin to hustle in the fourth quarter (and even then, only when it's a close game).

That's also why the XFL was a flop. There was absolutely no way a football league that was teamed with the WWF could succeed. In the XFL, the façade was actually exposed, and fans knew that what they were seeing was totally theatrical. All of the melodramatic athletes in pro sports can get annoying, but with the XFL's lame trash-talking and gratuitous late hits, those guys were actually acting.

And that's why the XFL lasted about as long as Ryan Leaf while the AFL just began its 20th season last weekend. Arena football players may not be the most talented athletes, and their teams might have goofy names, but at least they remember who ultimately pays their salaries — the fans.

With its recent flux in popularity, arena football is at a crossroads. The league officials can choose to maintain their niche as a low-profile alternative to the NFL, or they can pull an ABA and try to be a legitimate league.

Let's hope they keep it the way it is. For the fans' sake.



Jason Farber
Sports of Sorts

Swimming drops tough meet to perennial champions

Strong performances from the Jays couldn't top Kenyon College, winners of 26 consecutive Division III championship meets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
with that meet."

"We swam tired, and there were no excuses," he said. "I thought that was the best part of the trip. We knew the trip would be tough, but I didn't hear a thing about it. When you are focused on excellence, there are no excuses."

Senior co-captain Sean Kim, along with sophomores Ryan Kim and Brad Test all swam to first-place finishes in the meet.

Kim won the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:53.59, edging out Kenyon's Carroll Bullock by less than a second.

"Swimming at Kenyon was a great end to this year's challenging dual-meet season," Kim said. "The team is in the middle of some difficult training and we swam very well against a great team. I am expecting to see fast swimming from our team in the upcoming conference and national

meets."

Ryan Kim won the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:55.47, less than half a second in front of Kenyon's Ryan Volsen. Test won the 100-yard freestyle in 46.66, again less than half a second ahead of a Kenyon swimmer.

"Kenyon was a good setup meet for our upcoming championship meets and we were able to see where we were and what we have to work on in the upcoming weeks to be great at the end of the season," freshman John Kegelman said. "The unique dual-meet setup produced a lot of great races. All the guys did really well considering our training and the tough trip in general. Kenyon may have beaten us over the weekend, but now we know how we will have to swim in

order to bring home a national championship in March."

In the relays, Ryan Kim, senior co-captain Tyler Harris, Sean Kim and Test placed second in the 400-yard medley relay with a time of 3:27.62.

Test and Ryan Kim also placed second in the 50-yard freestyle and 200-yard backstroke, respectively.

Next up for the Jays is the ECAC Championships in Pittsburgh, Pa., from Feb. 24 to 26. After ECACs Hopkins will gear up for their last meet of the season, the NCAAs in March.

"Our team is motivated and ready to kick it in to high gear for NCAAs," Kennedy said.

"We've been working out a lot," senior Zane Hamilton said. "Our superior strength probably won't be apparent until NCAAs."

Wrestling continues win streak against Generals

Wins from Dave Kraus and others propeled the Jays over W&L

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
which has started to come together and improve," Freeman said.

Freeman cited a surprise 21-16 victory against the nationally-ranked squad from McDaniel last Wednesday as a sign of the team's growth.

Freshmen Chris Floyd, Tyler Schmidt and Vince Domestico notched impressive victories that once again earned the Blue Jays a comeback home win.

"We knew we would beat them, as we matched up really well on paper," Crumlish said. "We had a lot of strength going up against their weaknesses. The freshmen really showed some heart in the win over McDaniel. It felt like a new team against McDaniel and that really got some momentum going."

Crumlish added that the additional momentum generated by the current winning streak has changed the team's daily outlook.

"When we were losing, going into practice every day was tough. You go in every day to practice knowing that it will be brutal. And when you are los-

ing, it's that much worse. You don't get to see the benefits of all your hard work, as you do when you're winning," Crumlish said.

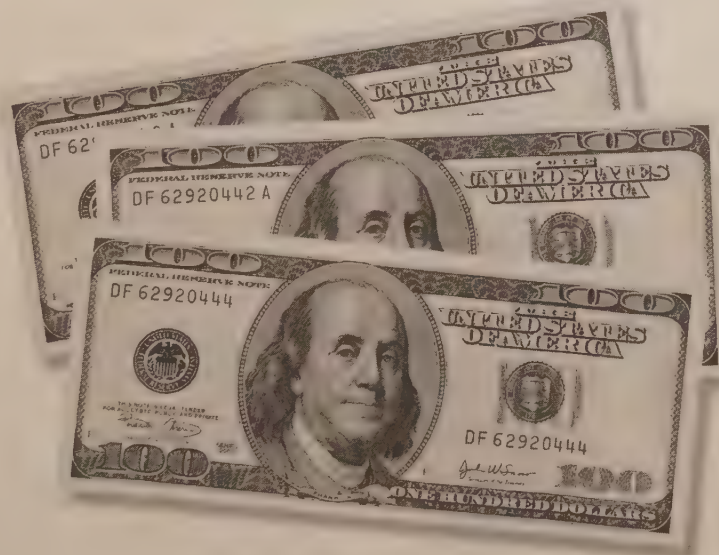
Crumlish credits first year head coach Keith Norris with instilling a serious attitude that is responsible for keeping this young team focused and successful.

"At our first team meeting, he handed out binders that detailed daily workouts from the fall to the end of the season," Crumlish said. "He emphasized that this team would not be a joke and that we'd better be here to wrestle, and if not, he would find someone else to. His organization and motivation has really helped us."

Freeman echoed similar sentiments as he mentioned how the efficient use of practices have contributed to a serious mindset that has shown itself during matches.

"Our whole goal during practice is to get the work in and get out," he said. "It's much more regimented, at least compared to last year. That has helped us to stay organized, serious and ready to wrestle."

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Wrestlers pull off a comeback win

By DREW LEFKOF
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

When junior wrestler Jonathan Freeman walked into the gym to meet the team's new head coach and a bevy of freshmen, he said he remembers not having any clear-cut expectations.

"A lot of them talk about how great they were in high school, but they don't realize at first

that college wrestling is different than high school wrestling," Freeman said. "There's a certain learning curve that usually has to occur."

With nearly one half of the roster composed of freshmen, one might be shocked to see the Blue Jays rolling up a 3-2 conference record, winning their last three matches in a row.

Most recently, Hopkins ral-

lied late to defeat Washington & Lee 22-12, last Sunday at Goldfarb Gym.

Junior Marco Priolo and freshman Avi Dunn jump-started a bewildered Hopkins squad that saw itself fall behind by six, as Priolo and Dunn contributed 9-3 and 11-3 decisions, respectively.

"When Marco scored his first takedown and got a victory, the team really fed off

that and got the momentum going," said sophomore Jim Crumlish.

Freeman added that the performance of Dunn and the freshmen, in general, contributed to Hopkins' ability to overcome a six-point early deficit.

"The freshmen have really started contributing as of late. This is a very young team,

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Men's b'ball remains tied for league lead

Seniors deliver for Blue Jays on Senior Night at Goldfarb Gym

By JOHN MONAGAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

A strong finish to this week erased bad memories of a slow start for the Johns Hopkins men's basketball team, who improved to 16-4 (2-2). Despite a two-win week, the Blue Jays would rather forget a lackadaisical effort last Wednesday against Swarthmore and remember a win against Haverford on Saturday, which was the best effort the team has given so far this season.

It was Senior Night at Goldfarb Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon, so it was only fitting that Bobby Sharafeddin and Jeff Thompson, the two lone seniors and co-captains of the team, led the way for the Blue Jays.

The two guards combined for 33 of the Blue Jays' 85 points in the 85-66 win. Thompson netted a career-high 20 points, and Sharafeddin went 3-for-3 from 3-point range and 4-for-4 from the free throw line to score 13.

While the two seniors don't always fill up a stat sheet with points, throughout the season they have time and time again proven to be the vocal leaders of the Blue Jays.

"It is always important to have seniors like Bobby and Jeff," said junior forward Zack Armen. "When we have as good a team as we do with so few seniors, it is always important to have great senior leadership, and they have definitely provided us with that this season."

The Fords grabbed an early 6-5 lead, but from that point on

the Blue Jays didn't let Haverford get any closer than two points. After opening up a nine-point halftime lead, the Blue Jays came out quickly in the second half to put away the Fords for good.

Juniors Matt Griffin and Dan Nawrocki also scored in double figures for Johns Hopkins, scoring 21 and 16 points, respectively.

With the win over the Fords, the Blue Jays erased a less-than-stellar effort last Wednesday against last-place Swarthmore. Hopkins was able to gain a 52-44 win, but didn't look like a first-place team in doing so. A slow start plagued the Blue Jays, and the Garnet Tide took an early 10-2 lead. However, the Blue Jays went on a 15-0 run shortly thereafter to grab the lead for good.

Johns Hopkins never put away the Garnet Tide for good, instead allowing the less talented team to hang around and stay in the game — with 13 minutes left in the second half, the Garnet Tide trailed by only three.

The Blue Jays had more talent, but played down to Swarthmore's level, a bad trend that was taken out of the equation by the win over Haverford.

Griffin and Nawrocki led the scoring for the Blue Jays once again, scoring 19 and 14, respectively.

Nawrocki also grabbed nine rebounds for Hopkins, who shot only 32-percent from the field, its lowest output of the season. Freshman point guard Scott Weisenfeld had a team-high six assists for the Blue Jays.

With their two wins this week and a Ursinus loss, the Blue Jays find themselves once again tied up for first place in the Centennial Conference with Ursinus.

A huge game this Saturday at Ursinus will break the deadlock, assuming Hopkins gets by with a win at McDaniel on Wednesday.

The first-place team in the Centennial Conference receives the advantage of hosting the Centennial Conference Tournament in late February.



Freshman heavyweight Vince Domestico fights for position against Washington & Lee's John Christopher en route to a 9-6 decision. The victory sealed Hopkins' 22-12 win over the Generals.

W. b'ball wins it with rebounding

By DAVID NGUYEN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Timing, coordination and position. These are the fundamentals for successful rebounding in the game of basketball.

The Hopkins women's basketball team dominated on the boards last Saturday, grabbing 61 rebounds in cruising to a 75-50 victory over Haverford College.

The victory extended the current Blue Jay win streak to six games, all against Centennial Conference opponents, and closed out a four-game home stand at Goldfarb Gymnasium.

After entering this home stand having lost three of six games, the Blue Jays have crushed their opponents during this last four-game stretch by an average of 19.25 points per contest.

All evidence of what appeared to be a close match at end of the first half evaporated after the Blue Jays scorched the Fords in the second half.

Leading by only two points at the half, after a buzzer-beater from Haverford's Katie Crowley cut the Blue Jays lead to 33-31, the Jays clamped down on defense and opened up the offense.

"It was a tale of two halves," head coach Nancy Funk said. "We played so much better in the second half, both offensively and defensively, and that really carried us to the win."

Both teams had been shooting relatively accurately in the first half, with both squads hitting 40.6 percent from the floor. The Blue Jays caught fire in the second half, making 14 of 29 to shoot 48.3 percent, and benefited from superb shooting from



Freshman forward Sarah DePaolo inbounds a pass in the Jays' 75-50 win over Haverford.

the free throw stripe, knocking down 13 of 14.

As fast as the Jays were heating up in the second half, the Fords were cooling down. Haverford shot 18.4 percent from the field off of 7-of-38 shooting, less than half of the 40.6 percent it had in the first half. Defensively, the Blue Jays were brilliant in shutting down the Haverford offense, allowing only 19 points while scoring 42.

Both Hopkins and Haverford had trouble shooting from behind the arc with the Blue Jays hitting 2 of 13 while the Fords were 1 of 11.

While the Blue Jays feature an extremely talented freshman class, on this day, it was the seniors who led the way to victory. Senior guard/forward Katie Kimball surpassed all other scorers, coming up with 16 points to go with seven rebounds for the game. Kimball's 16-point feat raises her season average to 11.4 points per game, just 2 points behind junior forward Julie Miller, the team's leading scorer.

Senior forward Amanda Leese had nothing short of an

excellent performance in collecting her fourth double-double of the season by way of 13 points and a game-high 14 rebounds.

The most telling statistic of the game was without question the rebounding totals. Overmatched by the size and strength of the Blue Jays, the Fords were dominated on the boards. At the game's end, Haverford's 27 rebounds paled in comparison to the 61 posted by the Blue Jay squad.

The Jays' rebounding dominance coupled with their aggressive inside game easily secured the victory. The Blue Jays drew plenty of fouls to gather 25 free throws, while limiting Haverford to just 11 shots from the charity stripe.

The Blue Jays will play three other teams this week, which will bring them to four games in the span of eight days. Johns Hopkins will face McDaniel on Tuesday in Westminster, Maryland, at 7 p.m. and Ursinus in Collegeville, PA., on Saturday 1 p.m. The Blue Jays will also host Villa Julie at Goldfarb Gymnasium on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Swimming's streak falls to powerhouse Kenyon College

By CLAIRE KOEHLER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Johns Hopkins men's swim team entered last Saturday's dual meet against Kenyon with an impressive statistic to their credit: They had won 65 straight dual meet against Division III opponents, a streak that began in the 1989-90 season.

Yet their away meet pitted them against Kenyon College, a program with an even more amazing active streak.

Kenyon has won an amazing 26 consecutive Division III NCAA Championships. The second-longest active championship streak in any NCAA division belongs to Methodist College, who has won eight straight Division III women's golf titles.

This time, the team with the more impressive streak prevailed. Despite a score of excellent performances, the Blue Jays lost in their last dual meet of the season, 130-97.

"Our guys swam very well at Kenyon," said head coach George Kennedy. "We performed many lifetime best dual meet times. Kenyon was very sharp and they were the better

team on Saturday. We are still five and a half weeks away from NCAAAs and the meet this past weekend has nothing to do

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Track teams heat up at CNU

Chun vaults herself to No. 13 in the country as Blue Jays excel

By ZACH GOODMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Collegiate track and field is a unique sport. With a season that begins in the first week of November and doesn't end until early to mid-May, the coaches are saddled with several difficult responsibilities. They are given the task of getting team members to peak not once, but twice over the course of the year for both indoor and outdoor track and also must keep their athletes healthy in a particularly grueling sport.

During head coach Bobby Van Allen's seven-year tenure, the Hopkins track team has dealt with several assistant-coaching changes in the sprints and distance events — but this

year, the entire Jays coaching staff returned. Veteran weights coach James Dunn was joined by second-year coaches Norm Ayen, a sprinting and jumping specialist, and Katherine Phillips, a long-distance expert.

Thus, it isn't that surprising to see that the men's and women's track teams have at least one athlete on the Centennial Conference top performers list in practically every event.

"Having that consistency in the coaching staff has really been helping all of our athletes improve," Van Allen said.

And with just three weeks left until the indoor conference championship meet, the Jays appeared to be peaking at just the right time at last

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INSIDE

Arena football is a sport for the people

If you just can't get into basketball anymore, the next two months could get a bit rough. But Jason Farber has an answer. Hint: it involves guys getting tackled into a wall. **Page A10.**

Women's fencing Van Goghs to Holland

The women's fencing squad took an Intersession trip to the Netherlands that combined training, competing, touring, and windmills (probably). **Page A11.**

Five reasons why XL was a Super Bust

Columnist Matthew Murray wasn't impressed by the Biggest Sunday of the Year. Find out why he would have rather been watching *Will & Grace*. **Page A11.**

THE B SECTION

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Baltimore's BOYS OF BARAKA

A new film follows 20 young locals from the city's streets to the grasslands of Kenya.

By ALEX BEGLEY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

In Baltimore, 76 percent of children don't graduate from high school, a statistic that inspired this year's most disarming documentary, *Boys of Baraka*. Directors Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, along with a group of dedicated producers and camera men set out to follow 20 Baltimore boys across the globe to Kenya, where they were given the opportunity to get a decent education — something that one is hard pressed to find in local public middle schools.

The documentary begins with a shot few of us are familiar with: The drone of a helicopter follows its searchlight as it pans over a dismal Baltimore neighborhood. Police sirens, perforated by gun shots, wail through the night as young men are thrown against cars and slapped into handcuffs. Women stand on their porch stoops, balancing babies on their hips, gently rocking them as they watch their neighbors deal drugs, get pushed into cop cars and even die.

Richard watches this scene from his window. At just 12 years old he has a father in jail for shooting his mother, who herself often disappears for days at a time, and a grandmother who only wants to see him get out of this life. He has the equivalent of a second-grade education when he should be ready for a high school-level curriculum. Devon wants to be a preacher. His enthusiasm and charisma sweep across the screen and even has the audience shouting, "Amen!" His little brother, Romesh, a 12-year-old, has a less ambitious future but an equal amount of potential. Montrey is the token trouble-maker, constantly getting suspended from school for picking fights.

Founded just over six years ago, The Baraka School has set out to accommodate boys like this. Its goal was to keep Baltimore's inner-city, "at-risk" kids from becoming just another statistic in *City Paper's* Murder Ink column. Every year the administrators of the school, based on a ranch-like compound in Kenya, hand-select 20 13-year-old boys from the Baltimore public school system and give them two years of privatized schooling.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B7



On the Run: Hopkins alums go for Congress



Four graduates launch bids for spots in the House and Senate in this year's elections. Will they make it all the way to the Capitol?

By JAMES FREEDMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Considering the number of political science majors here, it's no surprise that several alumni are making big names for themselves in the world of politics. Arts and Sciences alumnus Andy Barth, class of '68, said his experience as an undergraduate at Hopkins helped prepare him for his current bid for a seat in the House of Representatives.

"Hopkins — then and now — was full of very bright people, and simply making it through was challenging," said Barth, who's been a TV news reporter in Baltimore for the past 35 years. "There were a lot of smart people to compete with and to learn from, and I think that gave me pretty rigorous intellectual training."

Barth must have missed some of that Hopkins competition, as he's now running against another Hopkins graduate, Peter Beilenson, to win the vote of Maryland's 3rd Congressional District. They're competing for an open seat, as Ben Cardin — who currently represents the district in the House — is running for Senate.

Beilenson — who graduated from Hopkins School of Public Health — has been Baltimore's health commissioner for the past 13 years.

Both men have had a strong presence in the community they hope to one day represent, and though their backgrounds differ, both are nonetheless suitable for a post in Congress.

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VALENTINE'S FOCUS

Do Cupid's arrows give you heartburn?

By REBECCA MESSNER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Sitting at lunch in Levering, a guy friend of mine is searching the Internet. He stumbles across an advertisement for Godiva Chocolates and clicks on the link. It takes him to a Web-site for Godiva's new "G Collection," 15 designer chef-created chocolates in an assortment of simply magnificent colors and artistic designs. They look incredible.

I lean over and ask curiously, "How much would a box of those go for?"

"\$90," my friend replies. I gasp. "And more if you want guaranteed arrival on Feb. 14." I gasp again, though somehow the thought of receiving such a fine box of chocolates for Valentine's Day from someone special doesn't sound so awful.

My other guy friend is disgusted and shocked that anyone would spend that much money on someone for such a stupid holiday. I ask him what he thinks about the big V-Day.

"Aw, man this is not my subject," he says. "I mean ... guys, they stress out about it — they have to spend so much. I think Valentines Day sucks for guys."

Another friend of mine — a girl this time — chimes in from across the lunch table. "It's Hallmark's guilt trip to the lonely."

Do others agree? Valentines Day seems to be a much-contested point between girls and guys.

Some view the holiday as a sweet opportunity to do something romantic with the one you love, while others find that the day serves only to make the lonely feel even lonelier. Still others view the holiday as contrived by greeting card companies who will try anything to make a profit — even love.

"I guess it can be easily branded a Hallmark Holiday," said



Like other couples all over campus, sophomore lovebirds Hans Mueller and Alyson Hettrick make romantic plans for Valentine's Day.

sophomore Tanya Vargas. "But I think it's great if you're with someone, especially if you're not particularly romantic, because it's OK to be sappy on Feb. 14."

Senior Shivank Gupta agreed, addressing the fact that those not in relationships on Valentines Day are suddenly given a great and easy excuse to do something cute and romantic for that hottie they've had their eyes on all semester.

"I think the whole thing is kind of fun," he said. "It gives guys a good excuse to mush it up towards the girl they're particularly interested in without coming across as a dork. Valentines Day is a great excuse to pursue."

Sophomore Phil Castrovinci

added, "It's heavily geared towards women, I feel, but it gives guys who may not be as forward

thinking in romance a chance to put on a show. ... It's the Superbowl of love."

— PHIL CASTROVINCI, SOPHOMORE

Still, many guys, like my friends at the lunch table, think that Feb. 14 is an utter annoyance — a holiday laden with obligation and overly grand expectations. Maybe Valentines Day, which was once an excuse to send cute secret notes to loved ones, has just become a chore.

"It is also expected," Castrovinci continued. "In that case, if you don't do something it counts heavily against you."

"It feels kind of forced," said sophomore Joe Henderson.

What exactly do women expect out of Valentine's Day?

"I don't expect a guy to get me anything at all," senior Sarah Siemens said. "And I also don't expect him to pay for anything. I'm for equal opportunity love."

Still, part of us may still want a little something, right?

"I'm never one to expect anything, but I definitely hope that

he will [do something]," said Vargas again. "It's just nice to have someone that cares."

"But," she added, "I don't think you should ever expect anything. That leaves lots of room for the element of surprise. And spontaneity is so sexy."

It may be that Valentine's Day, in the traditional sense, is on its way out. Sophomore Sarah Bender, for instance, takes Valentines Day as an opportunity to tell her friends how much she cares about them.

"I like the holiday itself," she said. "Not just because I have a boyfriend, but because I've always done stuff with my friends for it. I see it more as a day when you can show how much you love your friends, as well as someone you're in a relationship with."

"Romance should be a daily thing," said Siemens. "We shouldn't put so much pressure into one day."

Senior Julia Kleene agreed, saying, "I would rather have my boyfriend surprise me on a completely random day."

"Valentine's Day," she added, "doesn't need any help being special ... it's the normal days that do."

... It gives guys who may not be as forward thinking in romance a chance to put on a show. ... It's the Superbowl of love.

— PHIL CASTROVINCI, SOPHOMORE

Roman priest sparks a tradition of romance

By LIZA WEHRLY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Every year on Feb. 14 love-struck couples exchange candy, cards, flowers and other gifts as they profess their affection for one another by saying, "Be Mine, Valentine." While romance fills the minds of happy couples, others dread the day that only acts as a reminder of their loneliness. Whether we welcome or fear the day, few of us question the origin of this now mainstream holiday.

Contrary to what some will say, there is much more to Valentines Day than a ploy created by Hallmark to raise revenue; the celebration of Valentines Day goes back many centuries to Roman and Christian stories of Saint Valentine.

The story of Saint Valentine has several variations. Each story offers a plausible explanation for the beginning of this long-standing holiday celebrated during the month of February.

The first version tells of a Christian priest during the third century (around 270 AD) in Rome. The priest, called Valentine, lived under the reign of Emperor Claudius II.

During Valentine's lifetime, Claudius outlawed marriage for young men so that they would be more prone to fighting in battle than staying home with their families.

Valentine vehemently disagreed with Claudius and was willing to risk his life to secretly marry young couples that desperately wanted to sanctify their love, despite the Emperor's decree.

Valentine's actions did not remain secret for long. Claudius soon learned of Valentine's crime. Valentine was sentenced to death by the emperor and allegedly killed during the month of February.

Another version of the same story tells of Valentine falling in love with his jailor's daughter.

As legend has it, Valentine sent a letter to his love shortly before his death professing his love to her. It is said that Valentine signed the card, "From your Valentine," and the phrase has been associated with Valentine and the holiday since.

Finally, a third, less romantic story has Valentine being executed for freeing ill-treated prisoners from Roman prisons.

No matter what story you choose to believe, it is agreed that after Valentine's death, he became a patron saint and overseer

of Roman pagan festivities. Saint Valentine oversaw the Lupercalia festival during the month of February, a month that has come to be associated with love and passion. By connecting St. Valentine of the Christian tradition with the Lupercalia festival, the church hoped to become involved in what was previously an exclusively pagan holiday.

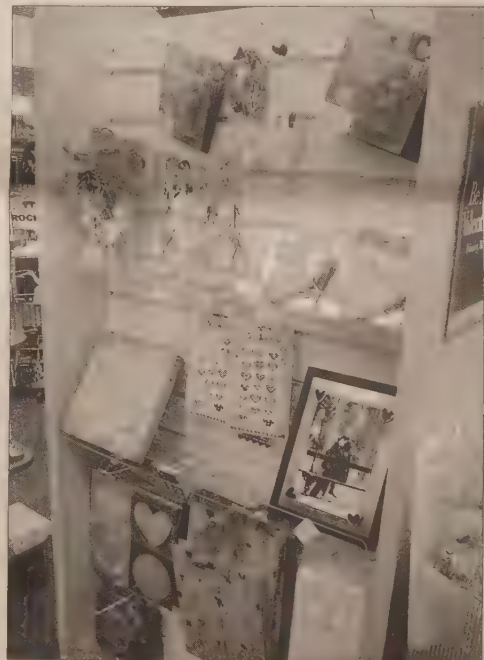
Similar to our notion of spring-cleaning, the Lupercalia festival of February was considered a time of cleaning out the old and bringing in the new for the season. It involved several rituals that became associated with Saint Valentine.

One tradition of the Lupercalia festival involved young men writing letters of affection to the women that they loved. These love letters were written annually on Feb. 14 in the name of Saint Valentine — similar to the way Valentine's name is used in today's greeting cards of the holiday.

A second tradition involved men drawing women's names out of an urn. These men and women would then be matched for an entire year, a pairing that sometimes led to marriage.

Additionally, in England and France during the Middle Ages, Feb. 14 marked the start of the birds' mating season — another element perpetuating the image of February as the month of love and passion.

Ultimately, Saint Valentine became firmly established as the



WILLIAM PARSHALK/NEWS-LETTER
The Bookcenter displays cards and games as Valentine's staples.

RESTAURANT TIPS

If you're taking your special friend out to dinner on Valentines Day, it can be hard to decide on the perfect restaurant. If you have a particular type of restaurant or environment in mind, but don't know where to look for the best meal in Baltimore, consider one of these recommendations. Reserve a table soon because a reservation on Valentine's Day is a hot commodity!

Romantic: Brass Elephant (French/American) — 924 N. Charles St. (410) 547-8480

Fun: Pazo (Tapas) — 1425 Aliceanna St. (410) 534-7296

Expensive: The Charleston (Southern American) — 1000 Lancaster St. (410) 332-7373

Unique: Ixia (Contemporary Food) — 518 N Charles St. (410) 727-1800

Ambiance: Kali's Court (Seafood) — 1606 Thames st. (410) 276 4700

— Liza Wehrly

What to do as a third wheel on the ultimate couple's day

The other day I was watching a re-run of *Sex and the City* — already a reminder that there aren't enough men or shoes in my life — when a phone sex commercial came on. Instead of the usual parade of hot young girls just waiting for you to call, Quest Personals employed the upcoming pink-tinted holiday to hawk their service. "Valentine's Day is the best time of year to be single," the bottled blonde purred into the camera "There's so much romance in the air, you're bound to hook up."

I'm not sure if "romance" is what people are really going for when they call 900 numbers, but I think we can all agree that the blonde's statement has even bigger flaws: It's a flat-out lie.

Valentine's Day ranks right up there with New Years Eve and class reunions in singleton horror. While you're crying into your empty mailbox next Tuesday, keep in mind that Valentine's Day, like its partner in crime, New Years, is almost always a let down, even for couples.

Having spent the first 16 years of my life being single on Valen-

tine's Day, my first Valentines day gifts were utterly disappointing: a wilted red rose purchased in my High School's snack bar and a flu virus I received from my boyfriend last year. This year I've opted to return to my old single tradition of chocolates from my father and bitching with my girlfriends.

It seems Sandy Cohen (Peter Gallagher) of *The OC* got it right when he said, "If you're single, [Valentine's Day] is designed to make you depressed; if

you're lucky enough to be in love, start shelling out chocolate, flowers, lingerie."

Knowing that those blissful couples aren't actually having as good of a time as they seem hardly comes as a relief to us single guys and gals. But it's not hopeless; you can get through the day alive — and with a little luck, even have some fun.

First, you should count your blessings. This year Valentine's Day is on a Tuesday, so you can spend all day distracted by academic endeavors and hard work.

You can also be grateful that you're no longer in high school. During High School, my school's



WILLIAM PARSHALK/NEWS-LETTER
Being a third wheel on the most couples-friendly holiday of the year can be a downer.

field hockey team sold roses to be distributed on Valentine's Day as a fundraiser.

But you're in college now and no one's counting how many flowers you get. By Feb.15 it will all be over. With the exception of the discount bin of Russell Stover's at Rite Aid, Valentine's Day doesn't linger around for weeks like Christmas.

So what should you do to make your Valentine's Day enduring, or even enjoyable? The obvious answer is to not let the day get you down.

Some suggest embracing your

uninvolved status by sending your friends roses and going out to dinner and a movies. Unfortunately, the flowers will only remind you that they aren't from a real valentine, your dinner will be ruined by the couple canoodling at the table next to you, and the movie will just leave you depressed that you've never been knocked down by a Hugh Grant type in the street. My advice is to stay inside, away from the gushing romantics, order Chinese food and watch something funny on TV. — just stay away from *Sex and the City*.

GIFT TIPS

While some of us will spend the holiday fretting our single status, others have the pressure of finding the perfect gift for their boyfriend or girlfriend. Here are a few key points to make finding the perfect gift relatively quick and painless.

Don't go overboard

Is bigger better? Not always. Big, elaborate gifts can sometimes seem like a replacement for sincere feelings. Lavish gifts can make a person feel uncomfortable, especially if they didn't spend a similar amount.

It's the thought that counts

If you are sincere and thoughtful when you select a gift, those qualities will speak for themselves.

Remember, what you want to say is, "I thought of you when I saw this, so I picked it up" not, "I could afford this, and I needed to get you a gift."

Stick to the basics

Valentine's day is a perfect holiday for the unoriginal. The classic gift of flowers and chocolate is a fool-proof, time-tested combination. You just can't go wrong.

Shop online

There is a huge selection of Valentine's gifts online. Check out websites like www.redenvelope.com, www.1800flowers.com or www.godiva.com for romantic gifts.

— Sam Engel

FEATURES

Uncovering a not-so-secret Hopkins past

By WESLEY HUNG
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

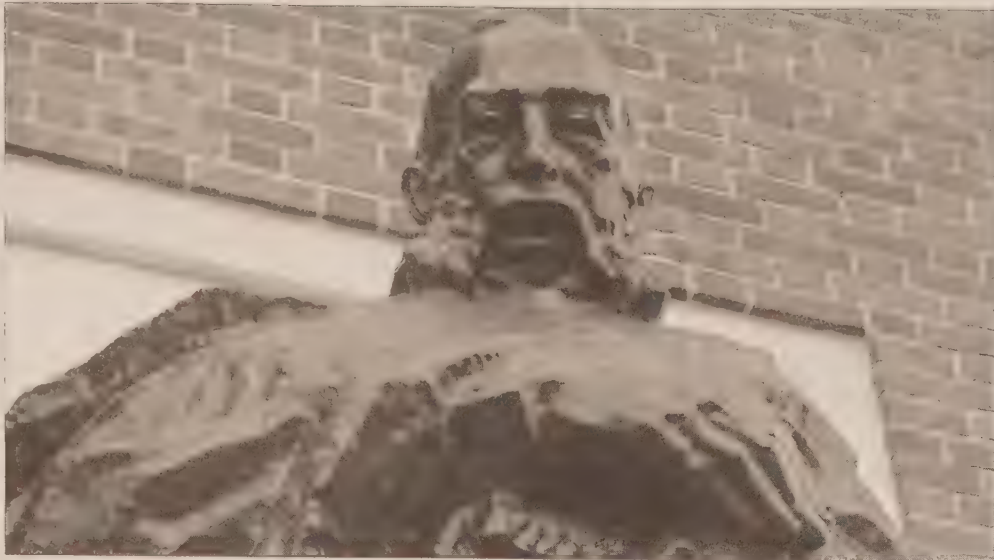
The three mysterious numbers under the insignia of the famous Skull and Bones are 322. Some say these numbers denote the establishment of a New World Order in 322 B.C. Others claim that the Skull and Bones is Chapter 322 of a German secret society. Some even believe that the skull-and-crossbones crest on pirate flags originated from the secret society Skull and Bones.

From the well-known Skull and Bones to their arch rival, the Scroll and Key Society at Yale, secret societies have always been unique student institutions in the country. Marked by athletic ability, scholarship, fellowship and most importantly, great wealth, members of secret societies have always, appropriately, kept their identities and relationship with the societies a secret.

Members of secret societies have historically denied their membership and have kept their institutions secrets by oath, often leading to speculation by outsiders. As author Anthony Sutton writes in *America's Secret Establishment*, the term "Skull and Bones" is known differently by insiders as "The Order," by others as "Chapter 322" and was also once known as the "Brotherhood of Death."

Such uncertainties have constantly led to speculation; some even claim that Skull and Bones is really an undercover organization attempting to rule the world. And they really seem to accomplish that goal. Franklin Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, George H.W. Bush and George Bush, all "Bonesmen" at one point, have assumed the single most prestigious position in the government.

Many others have taken up other significant roles, from such public positions as senators, attorney generals, U.S. secretaries, Federal Reserve chairmen and



Daniel Coit Gilman, the first president of Hopkins, was a member of the secret Skull and Bones fraternity as a Yale undergraduate student.

chief justices, to those in the private sector such as the Rockefellers, Harold Stanley (founder of Morgan Stanley) and presidents of numerous colleges.

What about Hopkins? Despite being the elite, history-rich university that it is, Hopkins does not seem to have its own version of Skull and Bones. And for those looking forward to learning about Hopkins' own secret society in this article, unfortunately we have not had a history of secret societies according to both the library archivist and Rob Turning, Coordinator of Greek Life.

We either never had one, or its members have been doing a hell of a job keeping their business secret. But given the extent to which secret societies have been exploited and their secrets compromised by the media and other college students over the years, it is also hard to think that a secret society could have been kept a secret all these years if Hopkins actually had one.

Although Turning does not know of any secret society on campus, he reckons that there

are certain contributions a secret society would have at Hopkins. He believes that secret societies would bring an "increased sense of school spirit and involvement."

He said that the ultimate goal of such societies would be to "ingrain themselves into the university" as many members of secret societies at other colleges are often involved in athletics, student government and other positions of power.

He expects a secret society would be popular among Hopkins students, since many would seek it out because membership would associate one with the elite. While secret societies would bring positive influences to campus, Turning also believes that these institutions would have negative effects on the student body.

On one hand, many would be skeptical about such an organization, but on the other hand, discrimination, sexism and racism would play a significant role as secret societies have had a history of only recruiting rich, white males. Furthermore, from the many

prominent positions that Bonesmen fill in the outside world, secret societies seem to prepare their members for the outside world with a vast network of connections. If Hopkins had a secret society, its members might just reach such pinnacles of business, politics, education and service that secret societies members have.

Secret societies may still seem distant to us, but one Bonesman has undeniably affected every Hopkins student's life — Daniel Coit Gilman. Gilman, a name familiar to many, the first president of our very own school, was a member of the 1852 class of Skull and Bones. This Bonesman played an active role in founding Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Medical School, and he was immortalized by the establishment of Gilman Hall, the landmark of Homewood.

Another link between secret societies and Johns Hopkins lies in our fraternities. Many fraternities are said to employ ritual systems that are supposedly kept secret. They don't make their recruits lay nude in coffins during Satanic rituals like they do in Skull and Bones, but many other initiation rituals date back to Masonic order rites, sharing common ancestry with secret societies.

Despite the fact that there don't seem to be any secret societies hiding in the corners of Homewood, it is still an interesting thought to consider. If a senior walks up to you one of these days, taps you on the shoulder and asks, "I offer you an election to [insert your version of Hopkins' secret society]. Do you accept?" Would you?

Nighttime isn't always the right time to talk issues

This was a long, very interesting weekend. Like all "interesting weekends" it involved a bottle of red wine, some well intentioned friends, a bit of juicy gossip, a guy and myself all coming together at a loud, crowded party. What I learned from this classic college recipe for disaster is that timing is everything. When and how you break news, for better or worse, makes all the difference.

The situation itself is a pretty standard one: girl likes boy and thought they weren't going to be hooking up with anyone else. Boy goes and makes out with lax girl at a party in front of all of her friends. Hopkins is a very small school, so, like it or not, word inevitably travels fast. This past weekend, my, um, "her" friends decided to break the news after a polishing off a bottle of Argentine red wine, right before going to a party where everyone was going to meet up. Then girl flips out and flicks off boy.

There are a lot of things that went wrong in that story — but the basic one was the timing.

Sure, my friends had the right idea. They knew I actually liked someone and would not be particularly happy with this news — so why not wait for something to cushion the ego blow?

Yeah, a bottle of Malbec definitely did the trick.

In theory, it would've all been easier because I was seeing things a bit pink around the edges.

Unfortunately, just as beer goggles let you magnify the better aspects of people to make the 2 a.m. rush a whole lot easier, it also lets you take things a whole lot more personally and react a bit more emotionally.

When breaking the bad news, make sure to have a box of tissues, some low-fat ice cream or frozen yogurt and maybe a pillow on hand, but leave all the normal boys — Johnny, Jack and José — on the shelf.

I think we've all heard and, more often than not, accepted the

"I was drunk" apology (we're all in those unfortunate shoes at some point in our college careers) but you can only use that "get out of jail free" card so often as a way to make an excuse for bad behavior.

When it comes to breaking the news, first, make sure you're actually well intentioned. Too often people are toeing the *schadenfreude* line.

After you've ruled that out, make sure you're not doing the news-break at the best time for you to tell it, but rather the best time for the recipient to hear it.

Often times, a person just tries to get off his or her chest as soon as a gap in the conversation pulls at his or her conscience.

Resist this urge and you'll thank yourself for the overall lack of drama in your life in the future.

Finally, try not to tell the recipient in a crowded room, like a party setting. Saving face is a powerful motivating force, and a small ego blow, whether shared with a whole bar

or any room full of people whose opinion you might care about to some degree, is painful.

I would go on with some of the move obvious: Don't drop major news while naked/in bed (i.e. "Oh, by the way, the test was positive") and don't do it when the person in question is already angry.

Both of these scenarios are just asking for even more trouble than what will inevitably follow anyway.

No matter how you rationalize it, two bad things happening at the same time are not exactly lessening someone's pain. Instead, you're just adding more and more to it.

Good timing also involves finessing a situation. A friend's boyfriend, for whatever reasons, decided to come clean about a couple somewhat private things that were happening in their relationship to me.

I told him that he had to tell her himself — I was not going to do his dirty work for him. It was important he tell her himself.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



Jess Beaton Orgasmic Chemistry

College compatriots become political rivals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Barth grew up in D.C., moving to Baltimore to attend Hopkins. After graduating, he spent a year working in Minnesota and a semester in law school before deciding it wasn't the path he wanted to take. He returned to Baltimore, and has "been here ever since."

Although he admits schooling in the law could prove useful for a career in Congress, he says he acquired a more valuable education as a reporter in Baltimore.

"What a reporter does is a lot like what a Congressman should do — go out and investigate problems, talk to people, get a sense of the merits of both sides, try to analyze what the issue is," he said.

"What I've always done is simply tell people what the problem is. Now, I'd like to come up with a solution. Instead of just reporting problems, I'd like to solve them. Instead of just reporting events, I'd like to shape them."

He also believes his chances of winning the election are "excellent."

"I think that in the 35 years I was on TV here I've gotten to know the district better than any of the other candidates. I know the people, I know the problems, I know the strengths," he said.

"Also, I think the people in the district have gotten to know me. People say, 'I grew up watching you on TV,' and many did. ... I grew up while they were watching. I became educated and became more grown up and people were able to kind of experience that with me. ... I think people get a sense of what kind of guy you are and that's what I hope will persuade them to vote for me. As I've said, I hope to be a voice for decency and common sense," he added.

If elected, Barth hopes to plan a withdrawal from Iraq, so that we can focus our resources elsewhere.

"If we succeed in ending the involvement in Iraq," he said, "it will free up vast resources to devote to research ... [and] education in general as well as improving the environment and homeland security."

Peter Beilenson also plans on

keeping America safe from terror, citing his background in developing preparedness plans as Baltimore's Health Commissioner. Additionally, he believes in fiscal responsibility and wants to secure affordable health insurance for all Maryland residents.

Beilenson also has a long history in Baltimore. After graduating from Harvard College, he attended Emory University School of Medicine and received a Master's degree from the Hopkins' School of Public Health in 1990.

It didn't take long for him to end up as Health Commissioner.

"One month after finishing my chief residency here at Preventative Medicine, Mayor Schموke called me and asked me (to take) the Health Commissioner job," said Beilenson. "I accepted, and that's what I did until I stepped down a few months ago to run for Congress."

And it's clear that he did a good job. Baltimore Magazine recognized him as the city's "Best Civil Servant" for his work as Health Commissioner.

Beilenson sees himself as ideally suited to be a congressman because of the unique perspective and experience he brings with him.

"I would be the only person in all of the Congress who has actually had experience running local terrorist preparedness exercises, and obviously Congress deals all the time with emergency preparedness, natural disaster preparedness and terrorism preparedness," he said. "Hopefully I'd be one of the people other representatives would turn to, because I actually know what is needed for terrorism preparedness at the local level."

He also hasn't lost touch with the Hopkins community. Over the past 13 years, he's had interactions with people at several Johns Hopkins institutions on an almost daily basis.

"Everything from terrorism preparedness to infectious diseases to environmental issues to infant mortality — on all of those and many, many more issues I had literally almost daily contact with some faculty members at ei-

ther the Hopkins School of Public Health, School of Nursing or School of Medicine," he said.

"I also taught undergraduate Intercession courses for several years, so I've both had practically daily contact with faculty all over the institution, as well as with ... students."

He hopes to continue teaching in the future as an unpaid associate as long as Hopkins wants him.

"I've given probably a hundred lectures as an associate," he said, "and obviously look forward to continuing to do so."

Because of this, Beilenson says he's gotten overwhelming support from students, faculty and staff.

"I couldn't imagine anyone getting more support," he said. "In terms of volunteers and financial support, Hopkins students, faculty and staff have been just tremendously helpful."

For students aspiring towards politics, Beilenson has some advice.

"It's fascinating, and it's very useful to know what you're getting into," he said, recommending that students volunteer to assist during a campaign — preferably his own.

Barth offered a few tips as well, recommending that those interested in politics "take a lot of English, history and political science" courses.

Barth and Beilenson aren't the only two Hopkins grads facing off in the upcoming election. Kweisi Mfume, who received a Master's degree in Liberal Arts from Hopkins in 1984, is a past president of the NAACP, a trustee of Johns Hopkins University and a former congressman.

He's running for the same seat in the Senate as Michael Steele — Maryland's lieutenant governor who graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1981.

Although Barth and Beilenson aren't the only ones running for the seat in the House, it's quite possible that another Hopkins graduate will soon join the United States Congress.

Author's Note: For students not currently registered, and interested in voting in the upcoming election, visit <http://www.elections.state.md.us>.

HOT AT HOPKINS

The Steelers kicked butt in the Superbowl, so we're looking for some Pittsburgh hotties. Show your Iron City pride and prove that Pennsylvanians are both victorious and hot. E-mail: features@jhnewsletter.com



Name: Sam "Sizzle" Zand
Hometown: Northridge, Calif.
Major: Public Health, Business Minor
Year: 2007

You know a guy's a hottie when he claims, "I'm addicted to mirrors." We bet he even fogs them up, just because of his sheer hotness.

Other tidbits that prove that Sam sizzles — his favorite clothing item is his Hanes boxer-briefs, his best quality is his "stamina," and he loves to get a good massage from a lady. Oh man, he's sizzling like a frying pan. Ow!

He's also one busy boy, as he's a member of StuCo, AKPsi, and also enjoys "making money, and stripping." Looks like scores of ladies get to see Sam in his boxer-briefs.

If you'd like to be among the throngs of admirers, keep your potty mouth in check because Sam can't stand "girls who curse." Guess that negates talkin' dirty...

Despite his distaste for bad words, Sam prefers girls who are "classy in the streets, but nasty

in the sheets." He also emphasizes his desire for girls with "gorgeous eyes, a caramel complexion and a beautiful smile."

If you're lucky, you'll get to enjoy Sam's ideal date. First, he would take you snowmobiling at Lake Tahoe, which would lead to "messaging around in the snow and stripping down into the hot tub." The evening would conclude with a dinner of Sam's favorite meal, "steak, of course" then "back to the fireplace-lit bedroom for dessert."

Don't worry, though. There are plenty of chances for you to score with sexy Sam here at campus. He admits he'd love to be seen in the act on the Beach "when everyone is walking back from class."

So girls, just remember a few things: watch your language and never forget to flash your pearly whites (and perhaps something else) in Sam's direction.



Name: Chandrani "Rini" Mondal
Hometown: Berkeley Heights, N.J.
Major: Molecular and Cellular Biology, Minor in Piano Studies
Year: 2008

Cutiepie Chandrani "Rini" Mondal recently acquired a new nickname that seems to pretty much sum up her sparkling personality. "After the Superbowl, I'm supposed to wear a shirt that says brownandbubbly.com," she said.

Appropriately enough, this pretty lady's best quality is that "I'm nice," she said. But, as we all know, occasionally there's truth to the old adage about too much of a good thing because her one fault is that "I'm too nice."

Going along with the theme of being a sweetie, Rini also has quite the sweet tooth (though in a somewhat naughty way). Her ideal date involves going to a chocolate bar because "the way to my heart is through my stomach," she said. "I love different foods, and if you show me a good meal, I'll love you." Yummy, yummy, yummy, she's got love in her tummy.

Rini's also one talented gal — she's a master pianist. "I'm a music minor, so of course I'm always playing the piano at the Mattin practice rooms, which means, of course, I'm good with my hands." Looks like this musician can tickle more than just the ivories.

Her ideal guy must have a "love of music, so he can fully appreciate my 'handiwork.'"

Smelly guys need not apply, because "too much cologne" is her biggest turn-off. So remember to leave the scents alone. Interested yet? You should be.

FEATURES

Researcher finds new ways around oil myths

By JAMES LEE
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Hopkins graduate student Roger Stern didn't set out to change the way Americans think about oil, let alone end up challenging the basis of our relationship with the countries that produce it.

Rather, Stern came to Hopkins to study oil's insoluble opponent: water. "I came to Hopkins to study water pollution in relation to farm subsidies," he said. "Then, about a week into my graduate program, 9/11 happened."

Like so many other long-haul commuters on the East Coast, Stern, who lives in Massachusetts, found himself with an unfamiliar feeling of uncertainty as he commuted to and from Baltimore.

By his own admission, "It caused me to think a lot more about security issues," and even take a Hopkins seminar on the subject. And while for many of us this would quench our intellectual curiosity, Stern became fascinated with the "why" of terrorism.

Calling on his background in the earth sciences, Stern hit upon an area of study: the confluence of "petroleum, economics and society." His research came to fruition and led him to write two lines with big consequences: "[The oil] weapon has failed to harm the U.S. ... Oil is abundant, not scarce."

From those two ideas, Stern sets out to debunk a series of popular oil myths related to oil and U.S. policy.

In a paper recently published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Stern makes the argument that what the U.S. has long feared, a strangling oil embargo by the

Middle East, is implausible. With little more than a phrase, Stern renders the supposed "oil weapon" impotent.

Instead, the fear that oil is running out could easily be a myth advanced by the oil cartels and oil companies, Stern says, all of whom stand to gain from perceptions that drive up crude prices.

Simultaneously, these myths has also led to the U.S. policy of stabilizing the oil producing Middle East out of fear that they will lose their oil interests.

"[It] is one little part of a whole set of misconceptions, the oil weapon is a belief that our supply can be physically interrupted. I challenge that idea by pointing out the diversity of the oil supply and how highly dependant the suppliers are on the oil revenue. ... What's much more interesting to me than the fact that the oil weapon is plausible is that why it is so widely believed," Stern said.

He raises a valid point: Why are embargoes so feared if they have never truly worked?

The gravest security problems of the world are tied to the price of oil.

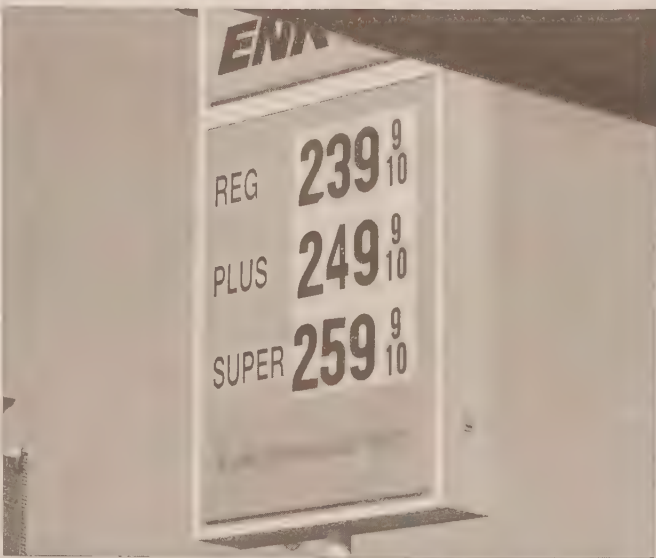
— ROGER STERN,
GRADUATE STUDENT

Stern argues that historically, oil embargoes have never been effective, as there is always a third country ready to step in and sell oil to the embargoed country, and have never

lasted since the oil-producing nations who are cutting off their sales depend so much on petroleum revenue. In analyzing the infamous 1973 oil crisis, Stern wrote: "Supply was not greatly affected. Cuts were real but the high price owed also to hoarding and import controls. ... Diplomats misread the market."

The skyrocketing gas prices of the 70s, Stern explained, were largely irrational ones caused by misperceptions of the market.

In an age when gas prices are often steep and more demand is



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER
Researcher Roger Stern theorizes that gas prices are often held hostage by the oil industry.

placed on oil reserves, Stern points out that, economically speaking, oil has been growing more abundant (read: cheaper), rather than scarcer over the past years.

He bases this argument on the fact that it costs less today to fill up a barrel of oil than it ever did. Saudi costs have declined from roughly \$4 per barrel in the 1970s to today's \$1.50 per barrel. If oil was ever to run dangerously low, this number would skyrocket. There is little sign that this will happen anytime soon.

"The total reserves are about 3 trillion barrels. The total amount of oil that has been extracted between 1859 and today is less than 1 trillion. There's a lot of oil out there — it is absurd," Stern said. "[The scarcity] is something promoted by oil industry. ... They frighten people to get that price," said Professor John Boland, Stern's faculty adviser.

Stern moves further to argue that U.S. negligence in challenging the myth of oil scarcity has been adding to the volatility of the Middle East as the high profits come to fund terrorist activities and became a source of contention among countries in the region.

"Some of the problems would be solved," Stern said. "It's very

hard to see that Iraq would have invaded Kuwait if it hadn't needed the Kuwaiti oil revenue to pay off its debts; it's hard to see why the civil war in Nigeria would be fought except for control of the oil revenues. ... The gravest security problems of the world are tied to the price of oil," Stern said.

Stern argues that this cartel price can be broken by reducing American dependence on foreign oil through fuel taxes and emission standards.

According to Stern, demand reduction would be the most direct and predictable way to break the oil cartel's power and shatter the myth of the "oil weapon."

With the demise of this myth, Stern claims, a new era of U.S.-Middle East relations would begin, an era not focused solely on supporting regimes that provide oil.

What seems slightly remarkable about Stern's thesis is that no one can seem to prove it wrong. "I've read the blogs," said Boland.

"There are people who just deny that he isn't the first one to say this, or that it's just not accepted. But I can't think of any factual arguments that anyone's put up to prove he's wrong."

Bring on the gluttony at XS

Sushi, desserts among the trendy offerings at nearby hotspot

XS holds true to its name. It is certainly not your average restaurant. In fact, XS doesn't lend itself to a standard dining label. The exterior is unimpressive and typical, but once inside, the eclectic character of XS is evident.

The exposed brick entrance with cathedral ceilings creates the feel of a modern lounge, but the dessert case filled with oversized profiteroles, croissants and strawberry cheesecake evoke a casual café ambience.

The diverse character of XS is clearly revealed by the sleek cherry wood sushi bar adjacent to the baked goods display — and this was only the first floor of four levels. As the host promptly led our party up several steel staircases to our top-story table, the café-lounge setting quickly transformed into a stylish restaurant and club atmosphere. Halfway between the third and fourth levels was a floating platform with a DJ playing live mixes for diners below.

The décor was not the only eclectic component of XS; the menu also offered a diverse assortment of appetizing choices. The menu is divided into five distinct categories: the sushi bar, the sweet stuff, the coffee bar, breakfast and the other stuff." The sushi bar held the most extensive array of appetizer and entrée options, but if Japanese noodles and rolls are not your idea of a great dinner out, there are more than enough choices for every type of customer.

The "other stuff" portion includes paninis, Southwestern-style wraps, fresh salads and tempura, in addition to the all day breakfast options of quiche, Belgian waffles, griddle cakes, French toast and a variety of egg dishes. Being slightly obsessed with sushi, I could not resist the special maki rolls from the sushi bar. The unique combi-

nations of flavorful ingredients, in addition to an imaginative presentation, deservingly earn XS the status of one of the best sushi selections in Baltimore.

Unfortunately, not all was perfect at this Mt. Vernon hot spot. The service was sporadic, slow and inattentive. In fairness to the staff, the lack of attention paid to our table was understandable to a certain degree. A four floor establishment must be a challenge

Carleigh Connelly
Baltimore's
Best Eats

to a server who must constantly travel and transport food between the bottom and top levels, but taking over 20 minutes to retrieve enough forks for the entire table borders on carelessness.

Despite the below average service, I would highly recommend XS for any meal, whether it's a relaxing breakfast, late night bite or a romantic date. In short, it's an always dependable destination for all types of meals.

A meal at XS promises to be satisfying to sushi-lovers, carrot cake addicts and quiche enthusiasts alike, which explains the popularity of this Baltimore original.

RESTAURANT
INFO

Mt. Vernon
1307 N. Charles Street
410-468-0002

Recommended dishes: Dragon roll, carrot cake, banana French toast.

Open: Mon.-Wed. 7:00 a.m. - 12 a.m., Thu.-Sat. 7:00 a.m. - 2 a.m., Sun. 9 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Prices: \$7 - 25 entrees.

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FEATURES

Students go beyond the façade in Morocco

Accompanied by a photo essay, Page B12

St. Augustine was recorded as saying, "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page." In that spirit, we launch a new periodic column dedicated to travel that has illuminated Hopkins students, faculty, and staff.

Our first edition covers an Intersession trip taken by several undergrad students to Morocco. If you have your own trip that changed the way you think about the world, email us at features@jhunewsletter.com.

On transportation:

"Leaving the airport in Casablanca, we were impressed by the old 1980's taxis. The driver of our cab drove straight down the center of the road. Even in the center of the city, he refused to move out of the middle of the road. People on motorbikes zoomed by us, with their handlebars touching the windows of our cab. We changed some money in the center of the city after our ride, then caught a train out of town. The train system was ideal- cheap, always on time. Passengers did have a European sense of space, though- men tended to perch on your legs waiting for their stops."

On Rabat:

"We left behind Casablanca, which was refined and European, the real commercial center of Morocco, for Rabat, the government center and the capitol city. We were staying with a family friend of Zach [Cafritz, former Hopkins '07] who is the U.S. Chief of Mission to Morocco. Their house in Rabat wasn't huge but was beautiful, with intricate, carved wood ceilings and a pool in their backyard. They had a staff of five servants. They had one fella who spent the day waiting in a small shack and hurried out to open the gate, door, or garage whenever anyone entered."

On Tangier:

"Tangier sits only 12 miles from Spain and is the most Spanish influenced city in Morocco- you can see Gibraltar in the distance. It's also by far the seediest place we visited, with the most Europeans hanging around. Everywhere we went we were offered hashish or chocolat, the French slang for weed. Even so, the hostel we stayed in was clean and comfortable, and only 5 bucks a night."

On life outside of the city:

"There is a small village high up in the Rif Mountains called Chefchaouen. It sat literally in between two huge ominous fog-covered mountains, which is what its name translates to in Arabic. The entire village is *medina*, which means the old part of town, untouched by modern buildings."

On Fez:

"Fez sits inland, not far from Rabat. It's an old-fashioned, relatively large city that sits in a valley between rolling hills. We climbed several of them to see an impressive collection of old ruins. But what was particularly remarkable about Fez were the people. We were staying in a hotel on the outskirts of the *medina*, which is usually the poorer section of town. We never once felt afraid. At one point, about midnight, we were walking to grab some water and passed through a group of kids who were playing soccer. They stopped and warned us not to go farther up the road, as we wouldn't be safe out there at night."

On languages:

"Everywhere we went, people spoke French. A lot of people knew phrases in English, especially little kids. 'Cool' and 'hey, welcome' were their favorites. In Marrakesh, we were walking by and a kid ran out and asked for money. We responded in bad German, and he started talking fluently in German, continuing the conversation."



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER
Juniors Matt Longley and Adnan Ahmad and Harvard junior Zach Cafritz pause above Fez.

On Roman ruins and Muslim cities:

"We visited Volubilis, which looked like Tuscany, with green sprawling hills, except for the massive old Roman ruins. For a long time, the city was the center of Roman North Africa, which you can definitely see with the remaining columns and arches. Nearby was Moulay Idris. We were definitely the only non-Moroccans visiting, so we walked around, bought about 2 kilos of clementines for about 70 cents, and sat in the city center eating them and watching the cats. Moulay Idris has a huge population of wild cats, which we found out when one of them pissed on our bags."

On Marrakesh:

"By the time we reached Marrakesh, we were used to everyone being very friendly and accommodating. People might have resented tourists, like they do everywhere, but they were polite to them. In Marrakesh, it was very different. Taxi drivers overcharged us, claiming the meters were broken. In particular, we had to watch for the snake charmers, who would put the snake around your shoulders than demand

money to remove it. We planned, if that happened to us, to walk away with the snake."

On the desert:

"We felt like we could have taken over Spain in the Land Rover we rented to explore the desert. Our driver followed a bus into the deep desert, straight into the dunes. He would taunt the bus, which had to stay on the road. His best maneuver was when he put the jeep in neutral, so it was still cruising forward, and climbed out of the driver's seat and scrambled onto the hood, where he sat as we zoomed along."

On camels and Berbers:

"Once you've seen a camel up close, you understand where all the characters in Star Wars come from. They are weird, ungainly creatures. We rode a camel train with Berber guides out into the desert. Our guide, Hassan, was from Mali, but had been stuck in Morocco since Algeria closed the border. When we stopped for the night, Hassan played the drums for us. When we woke up, it was raining in the desert. It never rains in the desert."

—As told by Matt Longley to staff writer Matt Hansen

When delivering breakup news, good timing is key

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

In this case, the timing, or lack thereof, says as much about the person in question as it says about the content of the news itself.

Good timing also means ensuring someone has an outlet for his or her frustrations soon after hearing the less than stellar news. For example, walking to the gym provides a great destination when you're feeling angry.

There's always trashy TV shows on in the cardio room upstairs, and you will never work out harder or take a faster sprint around the track.

Granted it is a somewhat temporary relief but it's cheaper than drugs, and you'll look better afterwards, too.

Obviously, good timing is when someone is ready. And by ready, "I have to tell you something you won't like. Do you want to hear it?" does not count. Don't use this as an excuse never to tell someone, then you're just being a wuss.

Also, keep in mind that hypothetical situations were made for a reason: to feel things out. In this case, you can make a situation up — it's good to get the creative juices flowing once and a while.

Another thing to consider is that there is rarely a situation where we don't have a friend who's already gone through it.

After the news is broken, a little mutual commiserating and sympathetic words can go a very long way, and will help soften the blow of the ugly relationship news.

One last point to keep in mind — we are all bright kids and, since half of the people on campus want to become doctors anyway, you should learn how to break bad news as smoothly as possible.

Sometimes I think basic interpersonal skills should be a required skill in order to graduate.

Consider this a lesson on one of the finer points of social interactions.

We bitch and moan that people at Hopkins don't have enough sex — and no, I'm just the one that

puts it in writing, ya'll say it too — but if we can't get the basic rules of interpersonal relationships right, then nothing's going to change.

Never fear, I'll write a column about sex

next week, but I feel like if we can't get these basic conversations right with our friends, then there's little hope for getting it right with other important people in your life now and for years to come.

Editor's Note: The columnist is not a trained medical professional. If you are seeking professional medical advice, please consult your doctor. To send questions anonymously, go to <http://www.jhunewsletter.com> and click on "Contact Us."

Letters Policy: While all email will be forwarded to the columnist, emails may or may not be read or published. Alternatively, they may become subject matter for the column.

The Features Section is looking for a **NIGHTLIFE COLUMNIST** to cover the in's and out's of the Baltimore bar and nightclub scene for News-Letter issues. We don't need the most seasoned clubbing veteran or the master of mixed drinks, but rather someone who enjoys living it up and has an interest in writing. Want the satisfaction of steering an audience to hippest spots in town? Contact features@jhunewsletter.com.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Satiric Whitehill escapes the mundane

By **ROBBIE WHELAN**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

A lot of people are taught that radicalism, in its various forms, is meant to make people take a step back and reassess the issues, to point them towards the extremes and maybe start them moving towards one of them. Communists, vegans, free-lovers: They all just want you to take a look at the most extreme form of living and perhaps take something away from it. Radicals don't necessarily want to instantaneously convert lots of people to a new and shocking doctrine.

Ben Kingsland's new play, *Whitehill*, which premiered this past weekend at Witness Theatre, is a half-farcical, half-serious meditation on an extreme lifestyle: in this case that of two suburban hunter-gatherers, Toby (sophomore Mitch Frank) and Bridget (sophomore Julie Sihilling), who live in a public park, wear Flintstones-like animal skin togas and have completely removed themselves from the high-tech, capitalist, user-friendly world around them.

When Toby runs into his once-radical college buddy Gary (sophomore Raffi Wartanian), who is now a cog in the corporate machine, he tries to convert his old friend and his daughter Mimi (freshman Christen Cromwell) to the enlightened, independent life of foraging and stalking geese, or as Toby puts it, "the self-reliance, the freedom, the mental challenge of staying fit and fed under your own power."

The play starts with their unconventional reunion, but turns eventually into a serious discussion about the merits of two radical ways of life: the daily grind at a nameless, sterile office job versus the organic, hardy life in the outdoors. Both Gary and Toby each turn out to be quasi-frauds, and both have doubts about the paths they have chosen. By the end, each has grown and learned from the other.

The first act opens with Mimi distressed about tomatoes that have been stolen from her backyard garden. She complains to her father, who responds sardonically by suggesting that per-



Sophomores Mitch Frank and Julie Sihilling star in senior Ben Kingsland's *Whitehill*, a play about radicalism and its place in modern society.

haps a gopher ate them ("They're omnivores.") and then printing out computer data from the office about gophers. Mimi's slacker boyfriend Clint is equally disinterested ("You grew some vegetables, something ate them. I mean, that's what happens to vegetables. They get eaten. It's not, like, 'News Flash!'"). All the while, Kingsland develops his

characters with crisply-written, funny dialogue and only a very few awkward moments.

When it becomes clear that the hunter-gatherers are responsible for the purloined tomatoes, Gary is first mad, because when we first meet Bridget, she is caught attempting to club the family dog Jasper, presumably to eat as meat. Soon, however, he becomes simply shocked to find his old college buddy living such a bizarre life. Toby refuses to accept that the former college anarchist Gary has given in to the oppression of convention and tries to convince him to give the forest life a try.

Toby ends up convincing Mimi instead, to the chagrin of her father, that the hunter-gatherer thing is a favorable way to live. But several mishaps, including a practical joke played by Toby on Gary that almost gets him fired, and a nightshade-poisoning incident involving Mimi, completely sour the relationship between the two old friends. The second act contains several very serious scenes of yelling-matches, played rather straight by the Witness cast, and everyone goes their separate ways in the end.

While Kingsland's effort is no doubt highly impressive — he undertook the writing of a full-length, coherent work for the stage, produced as the third annual Witness Theatre Intersession production — his play flags and gets a bit tiresome as it goes on. The problem is that he starts with an irresistible premise: two ridiculous suburban hunter-gatherers, raiding vegetable gardens and cooking stolen house pets.

It shows tremendous potential ... to produce works for theater that are funny, off-beat and maybe even make us do some thinking.

Everyman captures McDonagh's wit

In *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, the Irish playwright's brand of black humor proves compelling

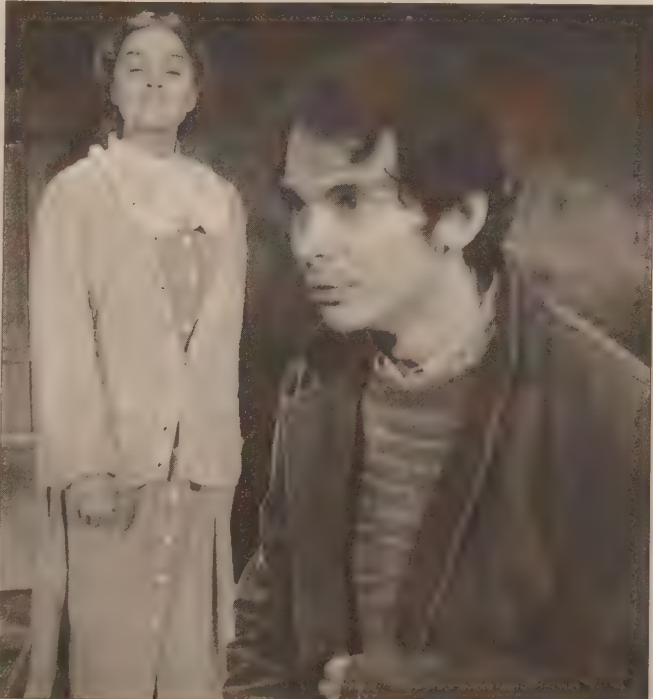
By **GARRETT R. LEONARD**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Aran Island of Inishmaan is a time capsule of traditional Irish country life. Located in Galway Bay off the west coast of Ireland, the small island is the setting for Martin McDonagh's play *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, now showing at the Everyman Theatre. *Inishmaan* takes place in 1934, when Hollywood director Robert J. Flaherty travels to the Aran Islands to film the documentary *Man of Aran*.

The fictional natives of Inishmaan hear the news of the movie production from the town gossip, Johnnypateenmike (Wil Love), which leads the village cripple, Billy (James Flanagan), to plot his escape from Inishmaan for America. His dreams of a film career drive him through two acts of dark comedy and a twisted plot.

Inishmaan spotlights the coarse country language of the rural Irishman. McDonagh uses a smattering of Irish slang in his lines and Everyman director Donald Hicken hired a dialect coach to ensure a realistic accent for each of the performers. For those worried that they may not know what "ladeen" means or who Kevin Barry is, Everyman has provided a basic glossary of Irish words in the production's program.

McDonagh is often likened to J. M. Synge, the famous Irish dramatist. Although Synge lived a hundred years ago, both he and McDonagh portrayed the eccentricities of country Irish. They both wrote in black humor and local color to become successful playwrights. The only difference between the two writers was the reaction of their audiences.



Rosemary Knower and James Flanagan play Aran Island natives in Everyman's *Inishmaan*.

Synge's famous *The Playboy of the Western World* was met with the riots of moral Catholic at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin while McDonagh's *Inishmaan* received a reception of guffaws around the world.

Despite the likeness to Synge, McDonagh feels he draws most influences from Quentin Tarantino, David Lynch, Martin Scorsese and Terence Malick. With that said, it is little surprise that McDonagh's play proudly features dark humor with a streak of the politically incorrect. There are plenty of priest jokes, and the re-telling of English-Irish history with eggs is both hilarious and messy. Violence, in the form of egging, beatings and throw-

ing stones against people's heads, appeals to the schadenfreude in everyone.

The play draws its greatest strength from its ability to take the dark humor and balance it with the correct measure of drama. A collection of unexpected twists keep the tension high and the audience guessing. The mystery behind the drowning death of Cripple Billy's parents comes into question many times and there are several shocks, including confessions and lies, before the truth is finally revealed. Another secret that pervades the play is the state of Cripple Billy's health. An ominous doctor's note draws the interest of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B8

Picasso's late-life genius revealed at small show

By **ADAM LEMPEL**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

A new exhibition at the BMA, *Picasso: The Final Years*, explores the experimentation and realization that the master artist discovered in the final years of his life from 1945 to 1968. This is a one-gallery exhibition with works as varied as drawings, lithographs and even large paintings, but Picasso's fascination with the art of printing may be the most central part of this exhibit and his later work in general. From March to September 1968, in only six short months, Picasso created 347 prints known as the 347 Suite. While his paintings may be daunting in their size and ingenuity the real star of this exhibit are his inventive prints.

After World War II, there was a swift change in Picasso's life when he met Françoise Gilot, a young art student, and began a serious relationship with her, which would eventually lead to their having two children together.

She became a frequent subject of his work from this period. There are two bare lithographs of Gilot in the exhibit from 1946. These drawings are composed of very simple shapes — her face a large circle, her neck a wide rectangle — yet they manage to convey a sense of beauty in a way that a full treatment in oil and canvas would never achieve.

Picasso was fascinated by the interplay between black and white. He could achieve something different each time with small, subtle changes. Gilot left Picasso in 1953; his next two lovers were Genevieve Laport and Jacqueline Roque, the latter twenty-something when she met Picasso, a man 50 years her senior.

Both also figure prominently in his work from this period. *Jacqueline in A Straw Hat*, from 1962, is a linoleum cut print that features a somewhat worried Roque drawn out in strong, abstract colors. It is a prime example of his many depictions of Roque in the surrounding time period.

Perhaps the most dazzling piece in the exhibit is a work titled *Two Women Awakening*, from 1959. It is a brown and black linoleum cut of two women in a bed; one has an outstretched neck like a chariot rider as she is looking out the window, while the other is in an almost fetal position, seemingly in a fit of fear or despair.



COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
Picasso's *Head* is part of a collection of his late work at the BMA.

of impenetrable screen between the two. The painter can never truly capture the subject for what it is in itself, but always captures it through his own mind's eye. This is definitely an appropriate theme for a painter who had redefined the art of painting itself in his younger days with his development of cubism — a most subjective form of art at the time.

The exhibit seems to have a very eclectic mix of Picasso's later work, but seeing how different most of the pieces in the exhibition are from each other, this showing would have benefited from being a bit bigger. Picasso's later works were of broadly different styles, and especially as this exhibit spans more than two decades of the artist's life, a three- or four-room exhibit where his last 25 years

CONTINUED ON PAGE B8

The year in spin: film evolves in 2005

By **SIMON WAXMAN**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

No treatment of bias in the arts and media is ever complete without consideration of the role of cinema. Hollywood has a reputation for liberal bias thanks to the shenanigans of some major stars like Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins, Richard Gere and Sean Penn. A bit of anti-rightist cynicism is probably healthy for an institution that has repeatedly found itself under assault from conservative elements over questions of decency and accusations of communism, which, though decades old, left a bitter taste in the mouths of cinema executives and creators that lingers to this day.

Regardless of Hollywood's formative political experiences, films are generally considered to have license for spin. Unlike the news media, which purports to be as objective as possible, films

need not meet any such requirement. Yet, for many movies, maintaining a degree of fairness is simply good business sense. America is a deeply polarized nation and offending half of it may result in poor box office returns.

This year bore witness to several films of political consequence exhibiting a variety of biases, both real and perceived by the overly sensitive. One such film was *Syriana*, a terribly complex story about the interplay of individuals and influences associated with the oil industry. Written and directed by Steven Gaghan, *Syriana*, like Gaghan's earlier and lesser *Traffic*, employs a narrative structure that intertwines multiple, disparate storylines simultaneously. A disenfranchised Pakistani immigrant in an oil-rich Arab country turns to terrorism (Mazhar Munir); lawyer Bennet Holliday (Jeffrey Wright) investigates the merger of two oil giants; CIA operative Bob Barnes

(George Clooney) is tasked with the assassination of progressive Arabian Prince Nasir Al-Subaai (Alexander Siddig) whose brother Meshal (Akbar Kurtha) desires the same throne. Meanwhile, oil industry analyst Bryan Woodman (Matt Damon) becomes one of Nasir's closest aids. Eventually these plot threads meet at a fairly satisfying crescendo. However the point of *Syriana* is contained not in convergence, but rather the vortex of confusion in which the viewer is mired as they develop disjointedly and at a blistering pace.

Upon seeing *Syriana* some surely complained about political bias contained within. Anyone who entered the theater with intent to locate spin would surely find it, but the movie is a work of equal-opportunity skepticism. *Syriana* condemns all and glorifies none in the worldwide quest for oil and satisfaction

CONTINUED ON PAGE B7

Baraka provides opportunity for urban youth

An inspiring Baltimore-based documentary focuses on reforming the troublemakers of an embattled public school system

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1
“The way I see it,” a Baraka School representative says to an auditorium full of young middle schoolers, “is you can walk out of high school three ways. The first way is that you can end up with a nice pair of silver bracelets (handcuffs). Two, you can end up in a nice suit and a big box (dead). Three, or you can walk out of here with a cap and gown and a diploma.”

It’s harsh, but unfortunately not far from the truth. The future for these boys is bleak, and it’s not necessarily their fault. Try as they might the world around them is trying harder to keep them down.

Directors Heidi Ewing and Rachel Gary are from Detroit and D.C. respectively, and neither is a stranger to tough cities. “I was sold on this story I read in Time magazine about this experimental boarding school in Kenya,” Ewing says. “I heard about it and just thought it was a wild idea.” Thus began a three-year documentary project to cover the drama of 20 boys and their fortuitous trip to Kenya.

Enter the Baraka School. Since its inception every student of the school has graduated from high school. “The whole idea behind the Baraka program was to take the small percentage of kids that teachers say are the most disruptive and take them out of the equation. That way the kids who are the troublemakers have the chance to get themselves together and the kids who are left behind have a less disruptive learning environment.”

Kenya, though extreme in its own sense, offers a safe haven for the students. They don’t have to worry about the drug dealers on street corners or domestic violence that distracts them at home. Instead they are encouraged to exercise, learn, create and explore. “I got something better than a cat,” one boy says in his video diary that is sent home to the parents, “I got a hedgehog.” He waves the animal in front of the camera.

The program isn’t easy. These seventh graders are halfway around the world and contact with their family is restricted to infrequent telephone calls and holiday video greetings. Not only that, but where once there were guns and drugs outside their windows now they have mountains and zebras. It’s the culture shock equivalent of an atomic bomb. The hardest part is simply



The 12-year-old stars of the stand-out documentary film, *Boys of Baraka*, take a break from Baltimore schools to explore Kenya’s countryside.

getting used to the rigorous style of education. None of these boys has ever had one-on-one schooling before, and at Baraka every move they make is noted. It’s a frustrating change and many of the boys find it difficult to handle.

Montrey is a particularly difficult child. His wild attitude and

filmmakers were lucky to catch the story.

The documentary is beautifully shot and masterfully cut. While shooting in Baltimore the filmmakers had to juggle runaway children and the indictment of the public school system while at the same time keeping their involvement out of the film and allowing the story to develop on its own. “[The boys] became more than subjects,” Ewing says, “They became close friends.”

I’m not an emotional person but even I will admit (along with everyone else in the theater) that I was choking back tears from the very first scene. The movie is hard to swallow, especially because the roughest parts take place only blocks away.

As a civil war in Kenya threatens to close the Baraka School one mother argues, “But don’t you see? There is a war going on here! They are safer in Africa.” It’s a startling realization and one that everyone at Hopkins should take to heart: There are people dying just around the corner from us.

Boys of Baraka is more than heartbreaking; it is absolutely devastating, yet simultaneously uplifting. It is the best documen-

tary film I have seen in three years and is already being considered for next year’s Oscars. The ending is something you would never expect, and after following the lives of these 20 boys and seeing them progress into smart young men, it’s certainly something you would never hope for. But that is the harsh reality of life in Baltimore. One of the final scenes gives us the image of two boys on a dilapidated playground, the charred remains of a swing-set the only remnants of an arson attack. In the background fire trucks race to a burning building and the children are too hurt by the hand they’ve just been dealt in life to even cry. They just sit and watch everything in front of them burn and fall to the ground.

I strongly encourage everyone to see this movie. As residents of this city it is practically your duty to see it. Many of the scenes take place in front of our own medical school, where students work to rescue the futures of sick people. But who is looking out for the perfectly healthy kids living in the projects a few blocks away? This question is answered in *Baraka*, and it might not be what you expect.

Book Review: *The March*

By E.L. Doctorow
Random House
Sept. 20, 2005
384 Pages

By BEN KALLMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

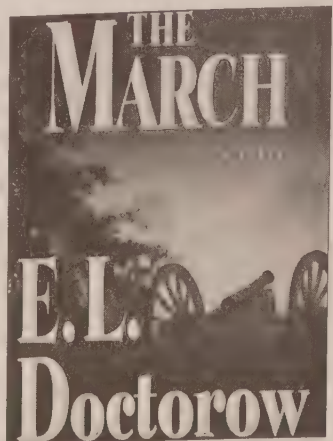
Even in today’s highly charged political climate, it’s hard to imagine one half of the country declaring its independence from the other. Of course, many 19th-century Americans would have said the same thing. In his newest novel, *The March*, E. L. Doctorow tackles the great moral and military conflict of the Civil War.

Specifically, Doctorow sets his characters’ stories against the backdrop of one of the largest and most successful military campaigns in American history. Unprecedented at the time of its undertaking, General William Tecumseh Sherman’s so-called March to the Sea began after the destruction of Atlanta by Union forces. President Abraham Lincoln was determined to end the war as quickly as possible, and he gave Sherman more than a modicum of autonomy in his control of Army forces. Doctorow uses

the immensity of Sherman’s mission as a point of comparison. The wide swath of destruction spread from Atlanta, through Georgia to Savannah, then turned north, passing through South Carolina and into North Carolina.

Such a large theater of warfare — not to mention the attendant destruction, confusion, illness and death — inevitably split families, broke relationships and caused society in general to break down. Doctorow does not underplay the horrors of Sherman’s brand of total war. Plantations were indeed burned, infrastructure destroyed, innocent people killed, the helpless left to fend for themselves. But Doctorow also convinces us that, even in the most hopeless of circumstances, people adapt and change, sometimes for mere survival, other times for their own personal sanity.

While the novel includes many



real-life personalities (Sherman, Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant), most of it is filled with the accounts of fictional characters. Elizabeth, the daughter of a respected judge, sheds her genteel lifestyle and becomes a nurse on the March’s front lines, under the wing of a staid German doctor named Wrede Sartorius. As her relationship with Sartorius matures, Elizabeth’s new position forces her to confront death and suffering unflinchingly. The gangrenous wounds, messy amputations and nameless faces she witnesses daily are a far cry from the afternoon tea and English literature she once knew.

Pearl, once an embittered slave girl on a Georgia plantation (whose father was also her master), becomes another compassionate helper among the medical tents. After a childhood spent on anger and resentment, in her nascent adolescence she begins to believe in a future, one in which she is free and independent. While for the first time in her life, Pearl has the power to define, perhaps more important is Pearl’s power to decide. Her encounter with newfound options plays out in her relationship with Stephen Walsh, a New York soldier of Irish descent, who, though five years Pearl’s senior, nevertheless almost instantly falls for her. Their bond forces Pearl to reflect on her loyalties. She could go home with Walsh and conform to the standards of his “Yankee” society, where, with her light skin, she could easily blend in. On the other hand, Pearl feels a certain amount of devotion to her home, even though it had been a place of enslavement and a site of unforgivable misdoings. Indeed, when she encounters her former mistress in a state of shock and on the verge of mental collapse (her husband and two sons were thought dead or — equally bad — on the front lines), Pearl cares for her as if their past were irrelevant.

And then, for a bit of comic relief from all the carnage and suffering, enter the characters of Arly and Will, two ne’er-do-wells who trick and maneuver their way from the Confederate side to the Union and back to “secesh” again as circumstances require, believing their scamming to be in God’s divine plan. The duo’s antics, though told tongue in cheek, highlight the central conflict that Pearl, Elizabeth and even Dr. Sartorius experience. In essence, it is a struggle between ideology and practicality. Each character can choose either to remain loyal to a destroyed land and a failed belief system or move on and adapt to a new world. It is, of course, a difficult choice to make and leads — at least for Elizabeth — to a feeling of personal suffocation and, consequently, physical escape from the past. For Dr. Sartorius the circumstances are different and noticeably less problematic. Obstinate and perhaps a bit ingenuously, he chooses work over a relationship with Elizabeth. Pearl, in the end, also chooses practicality, but, because she has a loving partner in Walsh, it seems easier for her than for Elizabeth.

Thus, while each character chooses according to his or her own conscience and has a unique rationale for doing so, Doctorow wants us to ultimately see them in the same light. Bringing together seemingly disparate stories and individuals in a convincing manner is, perhaps, his greatest feat. The novel ends when Sherman’s march — and the war itself — ends. There is a feeling of optimism that only the cessation of conflict can bring. It is perhaps a naïve hopefulness, one we know will not come completely to fruition, but it is nevertheless poignant and necessary for any sort of livable future.

Recent crop of films engage political issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6
of personal greed. One might take umbrage with the idea that the CIA disowns an employee who got in too deep and sends him to dispatch of a reformer, but those who know American history realize that such missions are common particularly in the Middle East and Latin America. On the other hand, Barnes’ treatment at the hands of Hezbollah surely does not sugarcoat the actions of a terrorist group and intrigue within a Sultan’s court is central to the downfall of the few

seemingly good men in this film.

The message of *Syriana*, all the more salient in the wake of President Bush’s surprise admission during the State of the Union address that Americans are “addicted” to oil, is that big oil is a living entity unto itself, created by man. It is Frankenstein’s monster: not itself evil, but beyond control.

In 2005 Robert Greenwald, of *Outfoxed* fame, was back in action with *Wal-Mart: the High Cost of Low Price*, along with other films speaking out against various injustices, particularly the war in Iraq. One

documentary that aimed higher and won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Festival is Eugene Jarecki’s *Why We Fight*, a film that purports to explain the actions of the Bush Administration in Iraq as a manifestation of the evils linked to the military industrial complex.

The movie is unbalanced — it is on a mission to change the way we view America. Its masterstroke is allowing Bush supporters from the Project for the New American Century such as William Kristol and Richard Perle to essentially implicate the administration with their praise. Unlike the works of Moore, *Why We Fight* takes a restrained approach, avoiding hysteria and sustaining a single-minded focus throughout.

Ultimately, the movie does not adequately answer the question it poses because, while the military industrial complex may indirectly cause wars, we never quite learn what elements of the American character gave rise to our current militant mentality. Even so, *Why We Fight*, which begins its Baltimore run in March, is an eye-opening and consummately professional work.

While *Why We Fight* is a must-view, many have characterized Steven Spielberg’s controversial Oscar nominee, *Munich*, as a veritable carnival of pro-Palestinian bias and a fictional misrepresentation of real events. For the most part, the movie is a cinematic gem. The acting is solid and for an action film *Munich* most assuredly is intense. The characters are compelling and Spielberg’s penchant for over-composition is kept to a minimum. *Munich* has been the target of a storm of outrage due to a perceived political agenda. I, a very strong supporter of the state



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ROTTENTOMATOES.COM](http://www.rottentomatoes.com)
Actor/writer George Clooney and actor William Hurt star in 2005’s political thriller *Syriana*.

of Israel, wish to disabuse you of this misguided notion.

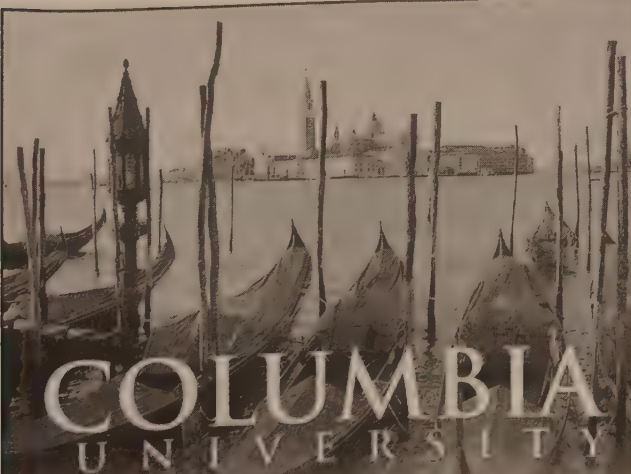
The movie opens with the disclaimer “Inspired by real events.” *Munich* is not even “based on” history; it is “inspired” by it. It makes no claims to accuracy. Apart from the basic context — the capture and murder of Israeli Olympians at Munich, West Germany in 1972 and subsequent Israeli revenge on their killers — nothing in *Munich* should be viewed as precise history. For example, protagonist Avner Kauffman (Eric Bana) and his team of Mossad agents rely heavily on a mercenary French intelligence source named Louis (Mathieu Amalric). Anyone with even a bit of common sense will know that Mossad agents, well trained and backed by some of the best intelligence in the world, would not rely on so untrustworthy a source. The idea is practically ludicrous.

Similarly strange is the uproar over Spielberg’s apparent sympathy for the Palestinian position and disagreement of some viewers with the big idea of the film: the futility of violence. It is beyond dispute that mutual retaliation has not led to peace or a better life in Israel and the Palestinian terri-

tories. The film actually makes no statement as to whether targeted killing is morally wrong, only that it is not necessarily effective, a point very much open to debate.


Avner does, indeed, question his mission, but his misgivings are primarily a result of extreme paranoia. His eventual decision to move away from Israel is a consequence not of distaste for his homeland, but fear for his own life. The killings do weigh on his conscience, but that should not disturb us. Indeed, were he so hard-hearted that he betrayed no emotion at the death of another at his own hands (even a terrorist), he would be a soulless character, something inhuman. I will admit that certain elements are intellectually dishonest, but the film is largely apolitical despite the hoopla. It is, above all, a thriller that courted controversy as a revenue-earning scheme.

As we make accusations of bias in the media we must remember the role that we play as consumers of that media. Sometimes, while watching a Bill O’Reilly or John Gibson, it would take a bona fide idiot to miss the partisan message. Often, though, our outrage reflects ourselves moer than the media.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY OF THE EVERYMAN THEATRE
Rosemary Knowler as Eileen and Wil Love as Johnnypateenmike play two Irish gossiphounds in a play about a sick boy's last few months.

Inishmaan proves incisively funny

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

forever nosy Johnnypateenmike, who believes that Cripply Billy has only months to live.

The challenge of complex, interwoven plots and a difficult dialect is easily overcome by the talented troupe. Towson University's James Flanagan makes his debut at the Everyman Theatre in the role of Cripple Billy, a boy beloved by his two caring aunts and tormented by the rest of the townsfolk.

Flanagan's innocent and youthful appearance makes him well suited for the part. His modest mannerisms, including a crippled arm and limp, tactfully portray a boy who has been afflicted with a debilitating disease since birth.

Wil Love, another freshman to the Everyman group, takes the role of town gossip Johnnypateenmike. Although his dia-

lect got off to a shaky start at the beginning of the play, he quickly brought it under control and gave a laugh-inducing performance. His comic timing and delivery was spot on, magnifying his characters already humorous lines.

One of the best scenes of the play includes Johnnypateenmike, the village doctor and Johnnypateenmike's "Mammy" (Vivienne Shub). The doctor is discussing the health risks of Mammy's drinking while Johnnypateenmike ensures him that Mammy will be kept away from the bottle. However, when the doctor turns his back, Mammy pulls a bottle from beneath the sheets of her bed and takes a giant swig. The comedy is augmented by Shub's feisty look and mannerisms, which are perfect for the role.

One of the most impressive performances of the production

was by Megan Anderson's turn as the energetic, cruel and slightly crazy Helen. Anderson's speedy lines, all issued in a crisp Irish dialect, her frazzled hair and a sweater that carelessly slid down her right shoulder produced a perfect portrait of a teen who was born to misbehave. Between abusing her sweet-toothed brother Bartley (Andrew Wassenich) to egging Father Barratt, Helen was a presence on the stage.

The Cripple of Inishmaan is a great comedy that appeals to the darker side of humor. The eclectic characters on the island both amuse and prove that their personalities are more crippled than the physical ills of Cripple Billy.

The Cripple of Inishmaan will be playing at the Everyman Theatre through February 26th. For tickets and showtimes, call (410)-752-5891, or visit www.everymantheatre.org.

Panel delves into nature of fiction

Writing Seminars professors weigh in on memoir controversy during Mattin Center arts lunch

By REBECCA MESSNER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

We are in the midst of a cultural phenomenon — the lives of real people today to us seem to be infinitely more fascinating than the made up-characters of past entertainment. What intrigues us so much about these people is not just that they're real, but also the extraordinary situations they have found themselves in — regardless of whether or not these situations are contrived. It's a common rumor that reality TV is in some way scripted, fictionalized for entertainment value. Can it still be considered *reality*, or is some creative license OK?

In the past month this issue was seriously questioned when Oprah chose the memoir *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey for her popular book club. The memoir earned millions, and Frey received huge acclaim for his intense and nearly unbelievable depiction of his struggle to overcome addiction. It wasn't until the investigative Web site <http://www.thesmokinggun.com> did some research that the news broke that some very key characters, incidents and details of Frey's supposed "memoir" were in fact completely fabricated. Oprah was furious and publicly chastised him for having lied.

Last Thursday, Hopkins, too, was buzzing about this controversy when it hosted the first Mattin Center ART Munch of the semester. The Mattin ART Munch meets the first Thursday of every month, holding informal forum-like discussions, which address changing developments in the world of the arts. Mattin ART Munch, co-sponsored by the JHU Digital Media Center, Homewood Arts Program and Homewood Art Workshops, is always free and open to everyone — faculty, students, anyone interested.

This month, the discussion revolved around the idea of fic-

tion in memoir and was entitled "Are You Not Ashamed to Tell So Many Lies? Just What IS Fiction?" Writing Seminars faculty members and published fiction writers Jean McGarry, Stephen Dixon and Tristan Davies led the discussion; each was asked to describe, to them, "What is fiction?"

The SDS room in the Mattin Center was set up in a comfortably democratic fashion, with four tables arranged in a square in the center of the room. McGarry, Dixon and Davies sat on one

once he knows what the story is about. With regard to the Frey scandal, McGarry commented, "We don't *want* people to think we're writing about our own lives." Frey's problem was just the opposite.

Dixon was next to comment and in contrast to McGarry, was very impromptu and nonchalant about his answer. The effect was one of great comic timing. "Memoirs to me are also fiction," he said. "Fiction is everything that I write." And then, after a shrug and a brief pause, "That's it for me."

Tristan Davies went on to address the idea of fact. There are small facts and large facts in fiction — large facts being known and concrete: the capital of Maryland is Annapolis. Smaller, more obscured facts would be, say, the reaction a character has in response to the death of a loved one. Fiction, Davies believes, is much more factual than its definition suggests. The writer fictionalizes by choosing what facts to include.

The forum next opened up to questions from the audience — one being how these authors choose what to include.

"I just sit down at the typewriter and it just comes," admitted Dixon, author of 19 books of fiction, two of which were finalists for the National Book Award, and one was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. "It's a magical process...Very often the subject matter chooses me," he said.

Davies described falling in love with an idea like falling in love with a puppy. "You get a new puppy, you want to spend all your time with it," he said. "And then it gets to be a couple years old and it's destroying your house and everything's a mess."

To conclude the professors' responses to the James Frey scandal, each agreed that all memoirs to some extent are a kind of fiction — a kind of "creative non-fiction." Davies, at this, added, "Comma, whatever that means."

Picasso's late works brim with versatility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

are broken up seems more appropriate. Also, for some reason the exhibit has not chosen any works later than 1968, though Picasso did not stop producing creative works until his death in 1973. These last couple years of his work were dismissed by many observers at the time, though it has since recognized that Picasso was only ahead of his time developing a technique that would later be called neo-expressionism.

The first thing you notice when you walk into the exhibit may not be any of Picasso's prints or paintings but the giant photograph of the artist by Irving Penn on the left-hand side of the room. One of Picasso's eyes is hidden in the shadow and only a single large eye is visible in the foreground of this black-and-white picture. His shirt collar is up above his mouth, and he is wearing a large hat.



COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
Picasso's *Jaqueline*, one of his later works, is on display at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

These strange dimensions of the image suggest some of Picasso's own toying with the anatomy of the face. One can't help but think of that playful, watchful eye as you slowly stroll through the exhibit. The whole

room's existence seems to stem from his virile imagination; with each new and striking work you come across it is hard to forget that looming photograph of the mischievous genius in the corner.

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Leah Furman, *Author*

To register and for more
information go to:
www.hopkinshillel.org

CARTOONS, ETC.

your Horoscope



Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
The best thing about your plan to run for Congress is your health-care plan. The worst thing is your predilection for “killing people.”



Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
“Sexiest Employee of the Month” may seem like a great honor to you, but the glory is diminished when you work at a goat farm.



Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Animal lovers always want to show you pictures of their stupid pets. However, paintballing them in the face is not the best response.



Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
To end world hunger, a good step might be to stop ordering so many damn Big Macs, fattie. Cough that meat out for the poor people!



Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
Ever wonder what the female Managing Editor is doing on Wednesday nights? Not watching *Lost*! That’s what!



Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
Live your life like your rock star heroes and drop out of school already. C’mon, you know you love heroin.



Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
Is it just us, or are you looking damn fine this week? Yes, it’s just us. Sorry pal, didn’t mean to get your hopes up.



Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
The world does not revolve around you and your damn ankle scabs! Stop picking them in class, you sick freak!



Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Sexy people will haunt your dreams this week. This is not a bad thing — we recommend trying to sleep in as much as possible.



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - January 19)
Beguiling your TAs with flattery can end with sexy results, but any attempts this week will culminate in a nice slap on the face.



Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
Delectable chocolates brighten anyone’s day, except for people allergic to chocolate. These people will curse your name to no end.



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Kitten droppings in your coffee have been proven to increase intelligence, according to a recent study. You wish, sucker!

Master Of Arts

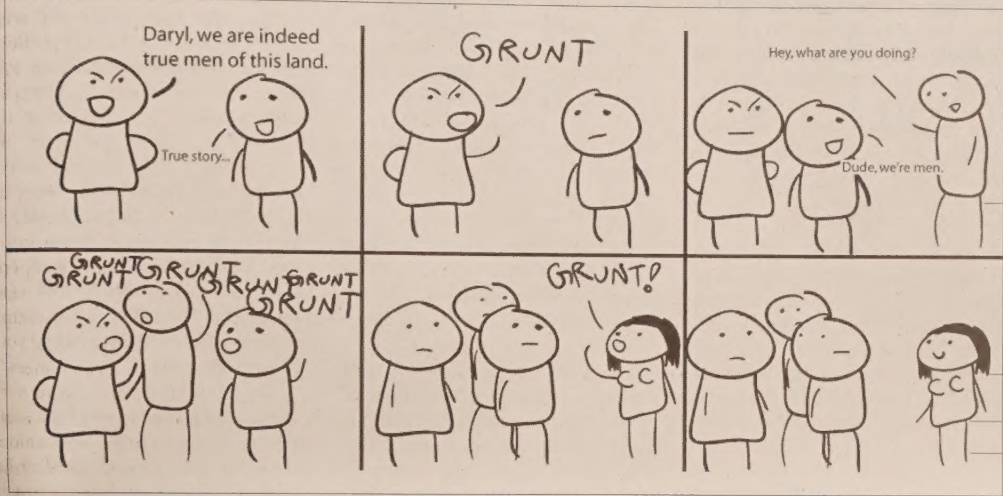
by Michael Specian



Illustrated by Lynn Carlson

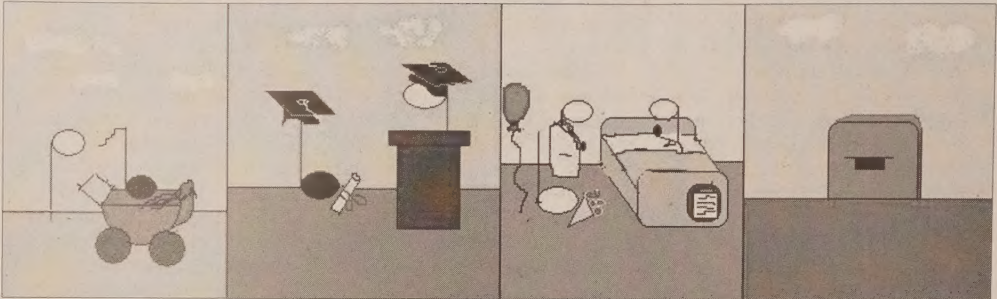
JHU Public Health

by Eric Chung



Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



Yearbook Confessions

by William Parschalk



Democracy is the new communism

A couple weeks ago, the Palestinian people went ahead and did something brave, something outrageous, something so amazing that it hasn't been attempted in the United States since 1996: they held fair elections. This seemed like a really great idea at first. I mean, I don't know about you, but I used to love elections. I didn't even care about the outcome; it was all about the experience of voting. I think you know what I'm talking about. A quick run-through:

1) *The big red levers.* They were big, they were red, and they were levers. What more could anyone ask for? Humans are genetically programmed to pull these things, I swear. If you've never done this, you probably have issues.

2) *The senior citizens that sign you in.* These people are top-notch. You can tell that their lives consist entirely of supervising elections and watching *Matlock*. They've obviously been training for this.

3) *The booze.* Always pregame before you vote. It's the American way. Also, it makes the names on the ballot funnier.

So, naturally, everyone was excited about the Palestinian elections. But then something unexpected happened: the Palestinians voted for the wrong party! Uh oh, Spaghettios! And by "Spaghettios" I mean Islamic militant groups. This was bad news for a lot of people, including President Bush, who was all gung-ho about bringing democracy to the Middle East. He had finally begun to achieve his goal, only to find that a terrorist group had gained legitimate political power. For those who don't know, this is almost as bad as having sex with an intern. Everyone wanted to know how this could've happened. We gave them democracy! What was the mistake?

I'll tell you what the mistake was: democracy. That's right, democracy was the problem. And do you know why? Because it sucks. Nobody likes democracy. You might think you like democracy but you don't; you just think you like it because everyone tells you to. Just like nobody likes

Carson Daly but he got to have his own talk show. Also, he got to have sex with Jennifer Love Hewitt. Did democracy ever do that?

Now that we've established that democracy is worse than Carson Daly, let's examine the reasons why. These really just boil down to a simple, obvious fact, one that I have continually tried to highlight in all of my News-Letter columns for the past two and a half years. It goes something like this:

PEOPLE. ARE. STUPID.
I don't think anyone with even the slightest real-world experience would disagree with me here. We all know it's true. We're all stupid. Even *I'm* stupid. If you don't believe me, here are my personal criteria for choosing whom I vote for:

Matt Diamond One Fry Short

Chances of candidate sleeping with me (if female).
How much candidate can bench press (if male, or if female and really pumped up).
How many cars candidate owns.
How often candidate wears a top hat.
Which candidate's name sounds more like a food.
Coin toss.

As you can see, I'm not very discriminating. But neither is anyone else. Sure, you may think you know the issues, but let's be honest here: the only things you really know about a candidate are what you've been told by people who love the candidate (who are probably lying) and by people who hate the candidate (who are also probably lying). Therefore, you don't know anything. And yet everyone thinks they're qualified to help decide who runs the country! Well, let me tell you something: you're not qualified. So just stop it. No seriously, just put down the big red lever and stop it.

"But Matt," you say, "we need democracy to protect ourselves from absolute rule!" That's a good point. People do need protection. But do you really trust people to

protect themselves? Of course not. As we discussed earlier, people are stupid. Giving people democracy to protect themselves is like giving a baby a machine gun for self-defense. Sure, it's hilarious at first. But then the baby goes and votes for Hamas.

Of course, I'm not gonna sit here and whine about democracy without suggesting an alternative. And there is one, courtesy of our good friends the Raëlians. For those who don't know, the Raëlian Movement is this religion started back in 1973 by some French dude who claimed he was contacted by aliens. No, I'm being completely serious. Nothing that happened in the 70s ever made sense. In addition to believing that aliens created life on earth via genetic engineering, and in addition to being possibly insane, the Raëlians also advocated a brand new system of government. This system is known as "geniocracy."

Here's the brilliant idea behind geniocracy: only smart people can run for office, and only smart people can vote. Of course, the cut-offs are different for each; people that run for office need to be REALLY smart, while people that vote only need to be pretty damn smart. Still, this means that out of the entire population of the United States, only four people would be allowed to participate in politics, all of whom happen to live in my apartment. We'd get to do really fun political stuff, like going to England and meeting with Parliament, which at this point would consist entirely of Stephen Hawking.

"But Matt, didn't you say you were stupid earlier?" Yeah, well, I was lying. Obviously you were too stupid to realize that. Which is why I'm not letting you vote anymore. But don't fret; being disenfranchised (to all you non-voters: this means "not being able to vote anymore") isn't the end of the world. Heck, women didn't get the right to vote until 1920, and they still managed to be bright, successful, subservient housewives. I'm sure you can all find important things to do that don't involve voting. Remember, that *Matlock* isn't going to watch itself.

Matt Diamond voted for Kodos and can be contacted at mdiamond@jhu.edu.

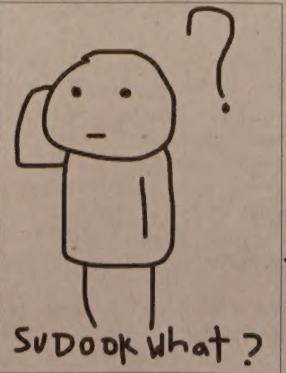
Go-go Sudoku!

by Eric Chung

6				5	3
	2		5	7	4
4	5	8			1
		9	6		2
7	3				8
2		4		9	6
			9		1
	6		2	3	7
8		7			

Every 3x3 square must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repeats. Every row and column must contain the number 1 through 9 without repeats.

Last week's solutions (empty spaces top to bottom, right to left): There was none last week! Ha!



SUDOOK What?

CALENDAR



COURTESY OF EMILY ETHERIDGE

Chris Hamel, Elspeth Kursh, Rina Telonis and Matt Bassett star in "Proof," which will debut in the Arellano Theater this Friday, Feb. 10.

Proof debuts at Arellano Theater

The Barnstormers will present their new production *Proof* at the Arellano Theater in Levering Hall on Feb. 10 at 8 p.m., Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.

David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play tells the story of a mathematical genius and his daughter, Catherine, who takes care of him after he becomes afflicted with a mental illness. The story becomes increasingly complicated as the young woman attempts to discern whether her father's insanity has been passed down to her.

Eventually he succumbs to his illness. Following the father's death, one of his graduate students, Hal, stumbles upon a stunning proof while looking through the mathematician's notes. The student soon realizes that the authorship must be authorized.

Emily Etheridge, the president of the Barnstormers, said,

"*Proof* is a perfect show for Hopkins in part because it's about math and a little geeky. But it's also about being a student as well as being a good child to your parents. [Everyone] can appreciate the show because we can all understand the situations it brings."

Proof has been of recent note in Hollywood as the play that was adapted into a movie of the same title in 2005 starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins, and Jake Gyllenhaal. The Barnstormers' version will showcase junior Chris Hamel, senior Elspeth Kursh, senior Matt Bassett and sophomore Rina Telonis. It is directed by junior George Telonis and produced by sophomore Jillian Saperstein, the Barnstormers Vice President for Studio Productions.

Etheridge is excited about the production, explaining that she has been hoping for some time that the Barnstormers would be able to do this play. The student

actors, technicians, and production team members involved in *Proof* have spent most of their Intersession working on the show. She promises a "great showcase for the talent of several of our Hopkins students that would be a shame to miss."

The Barnstormers is an entirely student-run theater group, one of the oldest and largest in the country. *Proof* marks the fourth of six shows this year, four of which are student-directed and two of which involve outside, professional directors. After the run of this play, the group will begin auditions for their spring musical "Into the Woods."

Tickets are \$3 for Hopkins affiliates and \$5 for the general public. They will be on sale at the door. For more information go to <http://barnstormers.acm.jhu.edu/history.php> or e-mail Emily Etheridge at emilyeve@jhu.edu.

—Anusha Gopalratnam

Campus Events

Thursday, Feb. 9

Hopkins Teambuilding will be recruiting students as program facilitators for the new school year. Teambuilders will lead community-oriented workshops for Hopkins students. Applicants should be enthusiastic, creative and have strong interpersonal skills. Positions are open to everyone, but particularly to freshmen, sophomores and graduate students. For more information go to <http://www.jhu.edu/~recsport/ee/hthome.html> or e-mail hopkinsteambuilding@jhu.edu.

10 p.m. **The Senior's Last Semester Kick-Off** will be held at the Hop Stop. Free food and free alt beverages will be provided along with pool, air hockey, video games and more. Bring cash to purchase drinks.

Friday, Feb. 10

5 p.m. The **National Aquarium in Baltimore** offers a discounted admission of \$5 every Friday after 5 p.m. The discounted admission is a great deal, so don't pass it up! Even if you have been to the aquarium before, head down to check out the new dolphin show. For more information, including hours of operation, group discounts and directions, call (410) 567-3845.

8 p.m. The **Maryland Space Grant Observatory** located in Bloomberg offers you a free chance to look at the solar system with its telescopes, weather permitting. Call (410) 516-6525 for weather updates and observing conditions before you hike up to Bloomberg.

8 p.m. The Barnstormers will debut their production of David Auburn's *Proof*, a play about an esteemed math professor's bat-

tle with a mental illness and his daughter's attempts to get closer to her father. The play stars Chris Hamel and Elspeth Kursh. It will be shown at the Arellano Theater. Tickets are \$3 for students.

8 p.m. The **Black Student Union's Fifth Annual Poetry Slam** will be held at the Hop Stop featuring the best slam poets in Baltimore. Tickets cost \$5. For more information go to <http://www.jhu.edu/bsu>.

8 p.m. Friday Night Films will hold a screening of *Sideways*, a movie about two men taking one final road trip before one of them ties the knot. Both encounter their own mid-life crises in the heart of wine country. The movie will be shown at Mudd Hall. Admission is \$2. For more information contact Sarah Johnson at sj84@jhu.edu.

10 p.m. **Coffee Grounds** takes place every Friday night in the Mattin Center Silk Road Cafe. Come out for the free Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee, and stay for the fun evening activity.

Saturday, Feb. 11

6 p.m. The Gospel Choir presents the **2nd Annual Gospel Jubilee** at Shriver Hall. The event will feature choirs from UMBC, Bucknell, LaSalle, Goucher and McDaniel. Admission is free. For more information go to <http://www.jhu.edu/gospel>.

8 p.m. The Barnstormers' production of David Auburn's *Proof* will be performed at the Arellano Theater. Tickets will be \$3 for students.

9 p.m. **The Ball at Hopkins** will be held at the Glass Pavilion in loving memory of Gilbert Duval-saint. Champagne, wine, beer, soda and snacks will be offered. Student band Defawnk will perform along with DJ Tolu. All proceeds will go towards meningitis research. Tickets are \$10 in

Sunday, Feb. 12

2 p.m. The Barnstormers' production of David Auburn's "*Proof*" will be performed for a final time at the Arellano Theater. Tickets will be \$3 for students.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

6:30 p.m. **Free Massages** will be given at the HopStop. For more information call Savithri Raja at (410) 516-8209 or e-mail her at savithri@jhu.edu.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

5 p.m. An Upper-class **Room Selection and Off-Campus Housing Information Session** will be held at the Arellano Theater in Levering Hall.

Thursday, Feb. 16

5 p.m. A Web site Launch and Reception will be held for the **History of African-Americans at JHU**. This event will be held at Hodson Hall.

5:30 p.m. RAB will sponsor their **2nd Annual Aquarium Trip** to the Baltimore National Aquarium. Buses will leave from MSE every half hour from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 and are available at Terrace and Wolman. For more information visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~rab>.

9 p.m. A **cOsMic Coffee House** will be held at the Interfaith Center. Local Hopkins acts will perform. Free coffee and Krispy Kreme doughnuts will be provided. For more information e-mail bschriv@jhu.edu.

Visual Arts

Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture

To usher in Black History Month, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture presents an exhibition entitled **Distant Echoes: Black Farmers in America**. The display will be 50 of photographer John Ficara's works which portray the lives and duties of African American farmers from across the United States, particularly Maryland. Ficara aims to capture the crisis that has faced these African American farmers.

Also on display will be **From Freedom's Shadow: African Americans and the United States Capitol**. This display will represent the lives of the African Americans who, despite being enslaved and denied basic human rights, helped build the U.S. Capitol which to this day represents the freedom of being an American.

On Feb. 9, from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., a performance depicting the evolution of African music entitled **Make Some Noiz** will be held. The audience will experience all facets of African music, encompassing the spectrum of spirituals, blues, jazz, gospel and modern-day hip-hop. This event is free.

The museum is located on 830 E. Pratt Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (443) 263-1800.

Walters Art Museum

The Walters Art Museum will be hosting **Art from India, Nepal and Tibet: The John and Berthe Ford Collection**. The exhibit will feature various art forms, including religious cloth paintings, stone and clay sculptures and a diverse array of Muslim and Buddhist art.

The exhibit will be open from Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (410) 547-9000 or

visit the Web site at <http://www.thewalters.org>.

Creative Alliance at the Patterson

On Thursday, Feb. 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the opening reception for **Erin Cluley: New Work** will be held at the Patterson. Cluley's work has been described as "seductive, defiant and ironic—a latter-day dance of the seven veils." Her paintings draw from Moorish and Catholic influences. Admission to the exhibit is free. The Creative Alliance is located at 2124 Eastern Ave. For more information call (410) 276-1651.

Jewish Museum of Maryland

A display of vintage clothing and accessories will be exhibited in **Hello Gorgeous! Fashion, Beauty and the Jewish-American Ideal**. The exhibit will focus on how Jewish women overcame various obstacles to find their own identity through fashion and popular culture. The museum is located on 15 Lloyd St. Hours are 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call (410) 732-6400 Ext. 14.

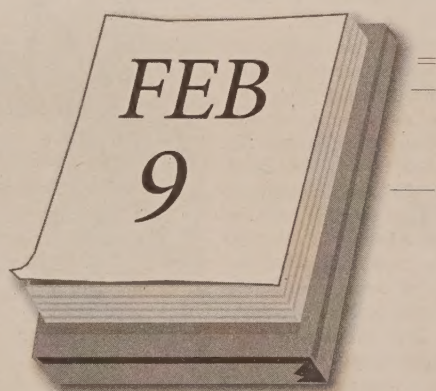
American Visionary Art Museum

On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, from 12 to 6 p.m., Frank Warren's **Post Secret Book Signing and Show** will be held at the American Visionary Art Museum. For the unaware, PostSecret is an ongoing art project in which people anonymously send in their deepest secrets in the form of artistic postcards. More than 100 new secrets will be on display. Warren himself will be on hand to autograph books. In addition to the exhibit, a large translucent mailbox will be available for those who want to submit their own secret.

The American Visionary Art Museum is located on 800 Key Highway at the base of Federal Hill. For more information go to <http://www.avam.org>.

—compiled by Stephanie Yu

Calendar



Feb. 9 to 16

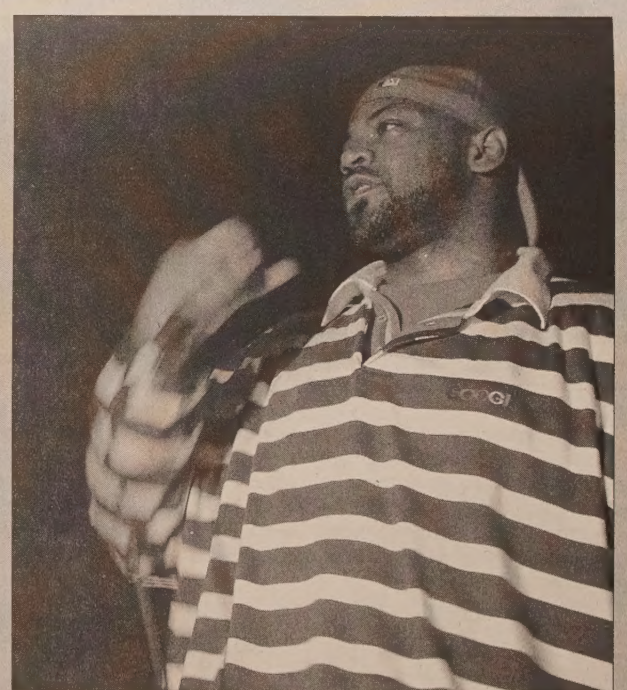
MOVIE OPENING

Boys of Baraka

Movie debuting at the Charles Theatre this Friday, Feb. 10
Showtimes: 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.INDIEWIRE.COM](http://WWW.INDIEWIRE.COM)

In 2002, 12 delinquent Baltimore boys were sent to Baraka, a boarding school in Kenya. In *Boys of Baraka*, they are faced with the strict rules of a new continent.



MARK MEHLINGER / FILE PHOTO

Ghostface Killah, along with the members of Wu-Tang Clan, will visit Sonar Feb. 12.

The Wu-Tang Clan prepare to take on Sonar this Sun.

This Sunday, February 12, the eight remaining members of the Wu-Tang Clan will arrive on the Baltimore leg of their "Return to the 36 Chambers O.D.B. Tribute Tour," their first group tour in a decade.

Over the past ten years, the Wu-Tang Clan, which is made up of RZA, GZA, Masta Killa, Method Man, Inspectah Deck, Raekwon, Ghostface Killah, U-God, and the late Old Dirty Bastard, has consistently held their position as the groundbreakers of hip-hop culture.

The Wu-Tang Clan hails from the roughest parts of Staten Island. Their love for old Kung Fu films crafted their style into a completely unique form. Utilizing martial arts ideals in their names and lyrics, the group pioneered a sub-genre characterized by grit, cerebral violence, and abstract euphemisms.

Their 1993 debut, "Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)" instantly became a classic.

With over 10 albums under their belt, and numerous solo and side projects, the Wu-Tang Clan has made a name for itself as one of the biggest acts in the rap industry.

Ghostface Killah, Raekwon, and GZA have all had solo performances in Baltimore within the past three years, and their individual music careers are nowhere near their end. However, experiencing the group performance is a rare event not worth missing.

Last year, the Wu-Tang Clan lost member O.D.B. to a drug overdose. Even without his eccentric presence, the Wu-Tang Clan will certainly pay homage by performing some of his classic hits. The concert will be at Sonar with Cappadonna, Streetlife & Mathematics and Bazaar Royale. Tickets are \$50. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbalaltimore.com>.

—Mark Mehlinger

CALENDAR

Graduation Countdown Kickoff hits the Hop

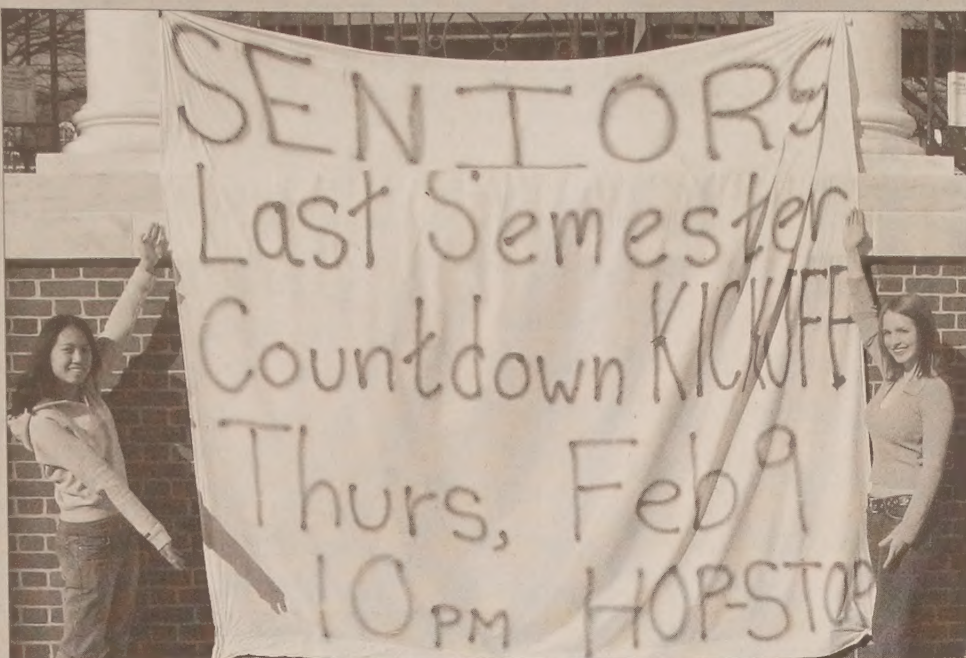
Historically speaking, the Senior Gift has been notoriously, well, lame. Every year seems to top the other in particularly forgettable tokens of appreciation from the senior class. However, this year, the Senior Gift Campaign is breaking away from tradition and starting off 2006 with a Senior Graduation Countdown Kickoff.

The Senior Gift is changing: In past years seniors did not raise enough to cover the gift, and Hopkins covered the slack. Graduating seniors used to be unhappy with the gifts that may have had the aesthetic value, but none of the productive value. It was a lose-lose situation.

This year's kickoff event is just one of the efforts to break away from the previous trend of weak graduation gifts. The Senior Countdown Kickoff Event will be held this Thursday, Feb. 9 at 10 p.m. in the Hop Stop. There will be a DJ, free food, alternative beverages and a bartender from PJ's.

"This year, it isn't about the money. It's a gift about us," says Courtenay Lewis, Marketing and Publicity Chair. "What do we, as seniors, really want to give back, not just to Hopkins, but to Hopkins students who come after us?"

Instead of asking for as much money as possible, the Gift Campaign decided to



Members of the Senior Gift committee Crystal Ng and Courtenay Lewis will host the Senior Graduation Kickoff at the Hop Stop this Thurs.

focus on getting seniors more involved with their senior gift. "Seniors can donate any amount and have it count towards our participation goal," explains Event Chair Preeti Balakrishnan. "We even ask for a 'spirit' pledge of \$20.06. We're showing that the focus isn't on giving a lot of money, it's on the spirit for the class of 2006."

Each senior can choose where his or her money will go to. Proceeds can benefit the Tutorial

Project for empowering Baltimore youth, to Blue Jays Unlimited for game events and a mascot uniform or to the Hopkins Fund for financial aid and undergraduate research. Students can also contribute money to Senior Week 2007.

Of course, events are a big part of it. "It's about unity," says Lewis. "This is our class, our year and our gift. We have a chance to change the essence of the senior gift. We want the

whole class to be proud of it." In hopes of fostering unity, the Senior Gift Campaign will be holding events each month to bring the class together.

Pledges can be made online at <http://giving.jhu.edu> or by phone, at (410) 516-3400 and through pledge cards available at the event. Be sure to bring your ID. Cash, check, credit card and J-Cash are accepted.

— Alex Kormendi

Concert Listings

Thursday, Feb. 9

6 p.m. Sonar will host the **School of Rock All-Stars** featuring Adrian Belew. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

7 p.m. Recher Theatre will host **Mest** on their farewell tour with Allister, Stacy Kids, Scaring kids and the Classic Crime. For more information go to <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

9 p.m. The **Love Drunks** stumble (lovingly) into the Side Bar along with Vincent's Black Shadow and Thee Lexington Arrows. For more information go to <http://www.sidebartavern.com>.

Friday, Feb. 10

8 p.m. **Jimmie's Chicken Shack** brings the farm to Recher Theatre with Soapbox Soldier and Ashes Remain. For more information go to <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

9 p.m. The **Living Things** come to life at the Ottobar in a Special Valentine's Day Edition of "Sideshow." Also performing will be Fascist Fascist, Sick Sick Birds and DJ Matt Walter. There will also be a pillow fight to kick off the holiday. Tickets are \$8 or \$5 with a pillow. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9:30 p.m. The **Rotten Shamblers** decompose at the Talking Head. Chelsea Graveyard, Ironhead and Trailer Park Opera prepare to decay as well. For more information go to <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

Saturday, Feb. 11

8:30 p.m. **Le Trois Cache-Courent des Batteries** will bring some French to the Red Room at Normal's Books and Records. Twig Harper will also perform. For more information go to <http://www.redroom.org>.

9 p.m. **DJ Feel Good** heals at Sonar with Dee Jay Clutch and DJ Figment. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

9:30 p.m. **Dynasty** (members

Sunday, Feb. 12

3 p.m. Melissa Tardiff Dvorak and Sharon Woster Pabon of **Ecclatante** will perform at An die Musik. For more information go to <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

8 p.m. The remaining members of the **Wu-Tang Clan** come to Sonar in the Return to the 36 Chambers O.D.B. Tribute Tour with the help of Cappadonna and Streetlife & Mathematics. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

9 p.m. A historically inaccurate reenactment of the assassination of JFKbraham Lincoln will be held at the Ottobar with the participation of **Report Suspicious Activity**, The Bomb, Fascist Fascist and the Mean Spirits. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Monday, Feb. 13

8 p.m. **Phonograph** prepare to play at Sonar. Private Eleanor and Maxeltov Cocktails also to perform. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

7 p.m. **Stephen Percy** with Pretty Boy Floyd and Bang Tango stop by the 8 X 10 Club. For more information go to <http://www.eightbytenclub.com>.

8 p.m. **Lee "Scratch" Perry** cures the itch at Sonar with the help of Dub is a Weapon. Lennon and Shannon Curfman also to perform on the club stage, separate admission. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

8 p.m. **Yes is a Pleasant Country** will visit An die Musik. For more information go to <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

9 p.m. The Ottobar presents a Happy Valentine's Day with **Smiths/Morrissey Karaoke**. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

10 p.m. An **Anti-Valentine's Day Party** will be held at the Ram's Head Tavern. DJ Kyborg will host



COURTESY OF HTTP://MUSICMEDIA.IGN.COM

The world famous Pontani Sisters will visit the Ottobar this Wednesday in Burlesque-a-pades.

with a night of house, electronic and indie. For more information go to <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

8 p.m. Legendary metal band **Motley Crue** stop by the First Mariner Arena on their "Carnival of Sins" tour. For more in-

formation go to <http://www.baltimorearena.com>.

8 p.m. **Burlesque-a-pades in Loveland** visits the Ottobar with the world famous Pontani Sisters and Mode Merr. Kitten de Ville, Trixie Little & The Evil Hate Monkey and Miss Saturn join in. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8 p.m. The night will bring **Grace**

NIGHTLIFE

Clubs

9:30 Club, 815 V St., NW, Washington, D.C., (202) 393-0930
Baja Beach Club, 55 Market Pl., (410) 727-0468
Bohagers, 701S. Eden St., (410) 563-7220
Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C. (202) 667-7960
Brass Monkey, 1601 Eastern Ave., (410) 522-0784
Buddies Pub and Jazz Club, 313 N. Charles St., (410) 332-4200
Cat's Eye Pub, 1730 Thames St., (410) 276-9085
Club 2314, 2314 Boston St., (410) 276-9556
DeGroen's Grill, 104 Albemarle St., (410) 837-5000
Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., (410) 558-1889
Hal Daddy's, 4119 E. Lombard St., (410) 342-3239
Harry's, 1200 N. Charles St., (410) 685-2828
Hammerjacks, 316 Guilford Ave., (410) 234-0044
Horse You Came In On, 1626 Thames St., (410) 327-8111
Iguana Cantina, 124 Market Place, (410) 244-0200
Latin Palace, 509 S. Broadway, (410) 522-6700
Lava Lounge, Pier Four, (410) 539-7888
Ottobar, 2549 N. Howard St., (410) 662-0069
Recher Theatre, 512 York Rd., Towson, (410) 337-7178
Redwood Trust, 200 E. Redwood St., (410) 669-9500
Sonar, 407 E. Saratoga St., (410) 327-8333
The Talking Head, 203 E. Davis St., (410) 962-5588
The Vault, 401 W. Baltimore St., (410) 244-6000
Waterfront Hotel, 1710 Thames St., (410) 327-4886
Wyatt's, 1614 Eastern Ave., (410) 732-8656

Comedy

Comedy Factory, 36 Light St., (410) 752-4189
The Improv, 6 Market Pl. at Power Plant Live, (410) 727-8500
Tracy's Comedy Shop, 9306 Harford Rd., (410) 665-8600

Coffee

Borders Bookstore and Music, 415 York Rd., (410) 296-0791
Café Tattoo, 4825 Belair Rd., (410) 325-7427
Carma's Café, 3120 St. Paul St., (410) 243-5200
Donna's, 3101 St. Paul St., (410) 889-3410
Fell's Point Café, 723 S. Broadway, (410) 327-8800
Funk's Democratic Coffee, 1818 Eastern Ave., (410) 276-3865
HopStop, Levering Hall, JHU, (410) 516-6219
Images Café, 3120 St. Paul St. (410) 235-3054
Margaret's Café, 909 Fell St., (410) 276-5606
One World Café, 100 W. University Parkway, (410) 235-5777
Red Emma's, 800 St. Paul St.
Sweet Retreat, 3215 N. Charles St.
Xandos, 3003 N. Charles St., (410) 889-7076
Ze Mean Bean Café, 1739 Fleet St., (410) 675-5999

Movie Theatres

AMC Towson Commons 8, 435 York Rd., (410) 825-5233
Charles Theatre, 1711 N. Charles St., (410) 727-FILM
Rotunda Cinematheque, 711 W. 40th St., (410) 235-4800
Senator Theatre, 5904 York Rd., (410) 435-8338

Potter and the Nocturnals to the 8 X 10 club. Steel Train will also be performing For more information go to <http://www.eightbytenclub.com>.

Thursday, Feb. 16

7:30 p.m. **Incognito** sneaks into the Ram's Head Tavern with Maysa Leak. For more information go to <http://www.ramshead.com>.

8 p.m. **The Bang Department Hip Hop Showcase** will prepare to explode at Sonar. It will be hosted by J Optimo, No Alligence and DJ TR. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com/>.

8 p.m. **Mr. Greengenes** will visit the Recher Theatre with Woodwork. For more information go

to <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.
9 p.m. **P.O.S.** featuring Turbo Nemesis, MAC Leathal, SIMS, Shambhala and other guests will invade the Ottobar. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9 p.m. **Alcian Blue** will bring more color to the Black Cat. Ceremony and a Place to Bury Strangers will come along. For more information go to <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

—Compiled by Stephanie Yu

Got an Event?

Send details about future events, including date, time, location, a brief summary of the event to events@jhunewsletter.com. Please e-mail all events the Monday before publication.

Exposure

By Mark Mehlinger



LE MAROC

Photos by Mark Mehlinger

